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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Ashrawi on Request for Expanded Palestinian Role *[Amman TV]* 3
Letter to Sponsors Reported *[Sanaa VOP]* 3
'Ashrawi, Abu-Jabir on Delegation *[Amman TV]* 3
U.S. Stance Termed 'Positive Sign' *[Amman Radio]* 4
'Binding' Assurances Seen *[AL-RA'Y 30 Jan]* 4
Jordan's Abu-Jabir on Talks, Border Issue *[Amman Radio]* 4
Egyptian Foreign Minister Addresses Session *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Holds News Conference *[MENA]* 5
Delegates, Ministers Review Results of Meetings *[Amman TV]* 6
Jordan's Abu-Jabir Meets With Gorbachev *[Amman TV]* 7
Algeria Not To Participate in Multilaterals *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Arab Negotiator Sees Arab Oil in Israeli Ports *[KUNA]* 7
Israel Conditionally Agrees to Refugee Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 8
Israeli Negotiators Praise Atmosphere *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
On Committee Sessions *[Jerusalem TV]* 8
Jerusalem TV Highlights Role of PLO Members *[Jerusalem TV]* 9
Netanyahu on Moscow Forum, Refugee Problem *[Tel Aviv TV]* 10
Central Eurasian Reportage on Arab-Israeli Talks *[cross-reference]* 11

Inter-Arab Affairs

Morocco To Present Arab View at UN Meeting *[Rabat TV]* 11
Egypt's Musa on NAM, UN Summit, Algeria *[MENA]* 11
Emergency Pan-Arab Conference Proceedings Noted *[JANA]* 11

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Rejects Participation in Moscow Talks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 12
'Arafat Urges U.S. To Honor Talks Commitment *[Tunis Radio]* 12
Meets Ambassadors, Notes U.S. 'Bias' *[Sanaa VOP]* 12
Receives Letter From Russian Leaders *[Sanaa VOP]* 12
'Arafat's Adviser Arrives in Cairo for Talks *[MENA]* 12
'Arafat Receives 'Urgent Message' From Mubarak *[Sanaa VOP]* 13
Officials Comment on Participation in Moscow Talks 13
Al-Hurani on Delegation's Composition *[MENA]* 13
Abu-Sharif on 'Israeli Blackmail' *[MAP]* 13
'Abd-al-Shafi Explains 'Boycott' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Al-Khatib on Participation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
PLO Factions Issue Strike Call Against Talks *[RFL]* 15
PFLP Attacks PLO Reliance on U.S. 'Promises' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 15
PFLP's Habash Flown to Paris Following Stroke *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 15
PFLP Not To Attend Meeting in Damascus *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 15
Palestinian Factions, Figures Meet in Damascus 16
PLA Statement on Moscow Talks *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 16
PNSF Rejects Participation *[Damascus Radio]* 16
Factions Issue Statement *[Damascus Radio]* 17

U.S., Israel Cannot Dictate Peace to Palestinians *[Algiers VOP]* 17
Hamas Denies Involvement in Professor's Murder *[Jerusalem AL-NAHAR 27 Jan]* 18

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Further Reportage on 29 Jan Algiers Clashes 19
1 Killed, 12 Wounded in La Glaciere *[Algiers Radio]* 19
1 Killed, 7 Wounded in Badjarah *[Algiers Radio]* 19
Higher State Council Calls for Law, Order *[Algiers Radio]* 19
Further on State Council Actions *[Algiers TV]* 19
State Reportedly Takes Over Fundamentalist Mosque *[AFP]* 19
Boudiaf Urges Veterans To Help End 'Impasse' *[Algiers Radio]* 19
Press Comments on Political Developments *[APS]* 20
Ministry Clarifies Nonattendance at Moscow Talks *[MAP]* 20

Egypt

Diplomatic Relations Established With Latvia *[MENA]* 20
$300 Million World Bank Loan Agreement Signed *[Cairo Radio]* 21
Report Details Rising Cost of Living *[AL-WAFD 22 Jan]* 21
Press Assesses Progress in Peace Talks 21
Shamir Pre-Talks Remarks Criticized *[MENA]* 21
Land-for-Peace Concept Urged *[MENA]* 21
U.S., Israel Seek 'Compromise' on Loans *[MENA]* 22

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Arab League Head Discuss Lockerbie *[JANA]* 22
Official Criticizes UN Resolution on Lockerbie *[INA]* 22
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Syrian Official *[Tripoli TV]* 22
Iranian Delegation Departs 23 Jan *[JANA]* 22

Mauritania

Supreme Court Rejects Losing Candidates' Petitions *[Libreville Africa No. 1]* 23
Taya Issues Statement Following Election Victory *[Nouakchott Radio]* 23
Fundamentalist Governor, Supporters Flee Country *[Madrid International TV]* 23

Morocco

King Congratulates Mauritanian President on Victory *[Rabat Radio]* 23
King Hassan Receives Libya's al-Kharrubi *[Rabat Radio]* 24
Iran's Khonsari Meets With Filali, Royal Adviser *[IRNA]* 24
Confers With King Hassan, Prime Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 24

IRAQ

IRNA: Unrest in South, Troops Sent to al-Kut 25
Al-Zubaydi Says 84 Percent of War Damage Repaired *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
Further on Reconstruction Successes *[INA]* 25
Minister Says Health Conditions Deteriorating *[INA]* 26
Ghali Informed of Continued Airspace Violations *[INA]* 26
UN Envoy Meets With Security Council Members *[INA]* 26

ISRAEL

Levi Announces Ties Established With India *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Levi Says 'Common Sense' Prevailed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Minister Reacts to U.S. Loan Conditions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27

U.S. Housing Halt Request Not Being Considered *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Sharon Reacts to New U.S. Committee on Refugees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Likud, Labor Agree To Hold Elections in June *[IDF Aviv Radio]* 28
No Intervention Planned in Treatment of Habash *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28

JORDAN

Acting Foreign Minister on al-Shar's Remarks 29
Defends Participation in Talks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 29
Sees Differences as 'Healthy' *[JORDAN TIMES 30-31 Jan]* 29
Rejection of Palestinians in Talks 'Big Setback' *[JORDAN TIMES 29 Jan]* 29
Surgeon Removes Ganglion From King's Knee *[Amman TV]* 30

LEBANON

Islamic Resistance Attacks Israeli Position *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 31
Birri Discusses Situation in South, Moscow Talks *[RFL]* 31
Al-Husayni Meets With Shammas, Russian Ambassador *[RFL]* 32
Hizballah Statement Assails Multilateral Talks *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 33
Camps, Hizballah Stage Anti-Talks Strike *[VOM]* 33
March in 'Ayn al-Hilwah *[VOM]* 33

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Calls Cabinet Meeting, Views Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 34
Al-Shar' Statement on UN Summit, Moscow Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 34
'Sources' Pleased With PLO Decision on Talks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 35
Papers Criticize Moscow Talks, Israeli Position *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Cuban Official Hold Talks With Vice President *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Information Minister Discusses Role of Media *[Cairo AKHIR SA'AH 22 Jan]* 36

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Army Officers Reportedly Not Obeying Najibollah *[Islamabad THE NEWS 28 Jan]* 38
President Suggests Talks With Pakistan, Iran *[Lahore THE NATION 28 Jan]* 38

Bangladesh

Spokesman Pleased With Burmese Talks on Refugees *[Dhaka Radio]* 39

India

Government To Establish Full Ties With Israel *[Delhi Radio]* 39
'Mixed' Reaction to Decision *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Government To Introduce More Economic Reforms *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Prime Minister Seeking Investment From Japan *[KYODO]* 39

Iran

German Justice Minister Holds Talks on Hostages 40
Delivers Message to Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[IRNA]* 40
Meets With Judicial Officials *[Hamburg DPA]* 40
Holds Talks With Interior Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Notes 'Millimeters' of Progress on Hostages *[Berlin ADN]* 41
Opposition Says State Sending Out Hit Teams *[INA]* 41
Karrubi Criticizes Turkey Over Anti-Islamic Movie *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Borujerdi Receives Afghan Leaders, Backs UN Plan *[Tehran Radio]* 41

Pakistan

Government Encourages Afghans To Work With UN *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
President Affirms Afghan Policy *[Islamabad International]* 42
Asif Nawaz Reportedly Invited to Afghanistan *[THE NEWS 28 Jan]* 42
Spokesman on French Nuclear Pact; India, Japan *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Libya's Jalhud Dismisses Terrorism Accusations *[MAP]* 43

Sri Lanka

Troops Overrun LTTE Den in Amparai District *[Colombo International]* 43

Arab-Israeli Talks

Delegates from both sides discussed the inclusion of "diaspora" Palestinians in the talks. The Palestinians termed the U.S. position a "positive sign," Amman radio reported, while the PLO's Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told AL-RA'Y that the Palestinians had received "binding" assurances on the issue. The Jordanian foreign minister's response to remarks by his Israeli counterpart concerning the border between the two countries were reported by Amman television. An unidentified negotiator cited by KUNA spoke of the prospect of Arab oil being exported from Israeli ports.

Israel, meanwhile, agreed to participate in the talks if no "diaspora" Palestinians are included, Jerusalem radio reported. Delegates commented on their "very positive" and "businesslike" discussions with their counterparts, Jerusalem radio and television added. The television highlighted its coverage of close association between Palestinian delegation members and those of the PLO. Asked if the Moscow talks constitute "another leg in the long journey headed nowhere," spokesman Netanyahu replied "Yes, definitely," in an interview with Tel Aviv television.

Jordan

Acting Foreign Minister al-Kabariti responded to remarks by Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar', "who implicitly criticized" Jordan's participation in the Moscow talks, Radio Monte Carlo reported; al-Kabariti told the JORDAN TIMES that the differences are "healthy." King Husayn spoke to Amman television after the removal of a "completely benign" ganglion behind his right knee.

Israel

A "senior minister" speculated about a linkage between the U.S. stand on the Palestinian delegation to the Moscow talks and U.S. conditions for the loan guarantees, Jerusalem radio reported. Perceptions of an easing in the U.S. conditions are wrong, the radio continued, adding political sources' comments that the country "could live" with other U.S. requests. Ari'el Sharon said the government is not considering a U.S. proposal to halt settlement in exchange for the guarantees, the radio added. Knesset elections are set for 23 June, according to a Likud-Labor agreement reported by Tel Aviv radio.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP leader George Habash was hospitalized in France following a stroke suffered in Tunis, Radio Monte Carlo reported. "Palestinian resistance factions" held a conference in the Syrian capital, Damascus radio reported. The Palestinian Liberation Army's statement opposing the Moscow multilaterals was broadcast by the clandestine al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio; a similar statement by the Palestinian National Salvation Front, as well as a final statement signed by conference participants, was reported by Damascus radio. The Hamas movement denied involvement in the murder of an American professor at Bi'r Zayt University in the West Bank, in a statement reported by the Jerusalem paper AL-NAHAR.

Algeria

The Higher State Council reaffirmed its commitment to imposing order, in a statement aired on Algiers radio. The statement came amid the radio's reports of clashes in Algiers in which one was killed and several wounded and arrested.

Iraq

The prime minister said the country has rebuilt 84 percent of what was destroyed in last year's war, Baghdad radio disclosed. The health minister, however, said conditions in his field are deteriorating, INA reported.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the German justice minister, who delivered a message from Helmut Kohl, IRNA reported.

India

The government decided to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, the foreign secretary told a news conference reported by Delhi radio. The country will consider participating in the Moscow multilaterals if invited, he added.

Mauritania

The president's acceptance speech upon winning reelection was broadcast by Nouakchott radio.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Ashrawi on Request for Expanded Palestinian Role

JN2901164892 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] At a news conference in Moscow today, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, announced that last night the Palestinians presented a memorandum to the sponsors of the peace conference requesting full participation of their delegation in the work of the technical committees. 'Ashrawi said that in their memorandum, the Palestinians proposed the establishment of two new committees.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording in English] We remain committed. We came here in good faith. We stayed here in good faith. And following yesterday's positive developments and the statements from both Secretary Baker and Foreign Minister Kozyrev on changing the Madrid formula, we immediately sent an official memorandum to the sponsors in which we declared our serious intentions, our full commitment to the process, and our request to participate in the working groups.

We expressed our interest to participate in the working groups on water, on arms control, on environment, on economic development, and on the formed refugee working group; and we proposed the formation of two new working groups: one on Jerusalem, as an issue that has multilateral and multinational significance, especially in terms of historical, religious, spiritual significance; and we also proposed the formation of a working group on human rights because we feel in the discourse of this emerging reality, the end of the twentieth century, human rights is a value on the basis of which serious decisions are taken—political and economic decisions.

We remain committed to the success of the peace process. We also maintain that for the multilaterals to succeed, effective and comprehensive Palestinian participation has to be ensured. But, basically, there has to be serious progress on the bilaterals. We have again to release the bilaterals from Israeli attempts at preventing any progress. Since the political agreement is that which is going to lay the foundations for the progress and prosperity of the whole region, we have to ensure that an equitable and just political agreement is arrived at and that no efforts are going to be exerted in order to derail or procrastinate, or prevent progress in the bilaterals. [end recording]

Letter to Sponsors Reported

JN2901173792 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] The multilateral conference on the Middle East opened in Moscow at 1000 yesterday in the presence of a number of Arab and European countries, Japan, and the two cosponsors of the conference. Syria and Lebanon boycotted the conference. Syria had legitimate demands concerning the sponsors' pledge that these meetings would lead to a total application of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the principle of land for peace, including withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

The PLO sent an eight-man delegation to Moscow, headed by brother Faysal al-Husayni. The members of the delegation are Palestinians from inside and outside and Jerusalem, considering that the multilateral talks address issues concerning the fate of the entire Palestinian people. The bilateral talks in Washington proved that the Israeli negotiators are wasting time by refusing to discuss substantive issues, especially settlements. The building of settlements in the occupied land is the vital issue whose halt or freeze during negotiations will be seen by the conference as an expression of a desire for peace, while the continuation of these activities will mean the opposite. The Palestinian delegation in Moscow is ready to participate if progress is made toward a solution to that problem.

Within this framework, news agencies said that the Americans made a compromise for Palestinian participation, in light of the composition the PLO announced later in the committees. These reports, however, have not been confirmed. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent a message to brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to this effect urging him to participate on the basis of the U.S. proposals.

Brother Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks, sent a letter on Monday evening to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, in their capacity as foreign ministers of the two sponsors of the peace conference. The letter includes an agreement to participate in the multilateral talks in response to their call, as well as the members of the Palestinian delegation. They are: Faysal al-Husayni as head, Dr. Kamil Mansur, Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Dr. Anis Fawzi al-Qasim, Zahirah Kamal, Ghassan al-Khatib, Yazid al-Sayigh.

'Ashrawi, Abu-Jabir on Delegation

JN2901213992 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Murid Hammad report from Moscow]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks were dismayed at the cosponsors' position on the issue of Palestinian representation. Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said: The issue of representation must not be subjected to Israeli dictates.

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] Well, we are still insisting that Palestinian representation has to be comprehensive, has to be legitimate, and has to represent the interest and the national identity of all Palestinians everywhere. We are still not allowing Israel to dictate the terms of Palestinian representation to the rest of the world community. It doesn't mean that we are against the peace

process or we are against the multilateral talks, it just means that we want to liberate them from the dictates and the preconditions of Israel.

[Hammad] And what about Jordanian-Palestinian coordination? Are you quite satisfied with the way things are going now?

['Ashrawi] Well, there is ongoing Palestinian-Jordanian coordination, naturally, because there is no joint delegation anymore; it is very difficult to coordinate closely at every step. But, in terms of the overall political positions, the Jordanians have been giving us tremendous support, and the Jordanian statement was very lucid and very supportive of Palestinian rights, especially vis-a-vis representation. [end recording]

Palestinian representation was a main topic in the talks held this morning between Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir and his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev.

[Begin Abu-Jabir recording] I discussed with his excellency two or three major topics—one, the Palestinian representation. And I solicited his help in that regard. And he promised that he will work towards the Palestinian representation from outside, from the diaspora, in the next round of multilateral negotiations. We discussed also what the Israeli Government has been doing and the speech by the foreign minister of Israel yesterday which included the line that was inserted—that the Jordan valley or the Jordan River is the border between Israel and Jordan. And I explained to his excellency that we, in Jordan, protest such a declaration in such an international conference that was designed in the first place to find common grounds and to create peaceful atmosphere, not to go back into ideological rigidities and molds. And I told his excellency that I raised the same point and I protested also to Mr. Baker when I met with him yesterday. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources here in the Russian capital, Moscow, said the Palestinians were prepared to participate in the meetings of the working groups in the multilateral stage, but they insist that any representation must be fair to the Palestinian people.

U.S. Stance Termed 'Positive Sign'

JN2901212392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the Moscow conference has considered the statements made by the United States and Russia, regarding their support for broadening the formula of Palestinian representation in the multilateral talks, a positive sign and a move in the right direction.

In an official statement issued in Moscow this evening, the delegation said that, in light of this, the Palestinian delegation has sent a memorandum to the conference cosponsors stressing its position on the need to guarantee comprehensive Palestinian representation from inside and outside the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, to take part in the work of all conference committees in the coming phase.

'Binding' Assurances Seen

JN3001083692 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Jan 92 pp 1, 23

[Excerpt] Moscow—[Passage omitted] After lengthy meetings among themselves; with the cosponsors of the conference, the United States and Russia; and with a number of Arab and foreign countries participating in the conference, Palestinians yesterday managed to obtain "binding" assurances, as described by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, currently in Moscow.

In an exclusive interview with AL-RA'Y, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: We managed to obtain American, Russian, Arab, and international commitment that the representatives of the Palestinian people, from wherever they may be, will actually participate in the work of the five committees stemming from the conference in their coming meetings. [passage omitted]

Jordan's Abu-Jabir on Talks, Border Issue

JN2801144392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir by unidentified reporter in Moscow on 28 January]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir: How do you assess the conference after the first session's opening speeches?

[Abu-Jabir] The speech I delivered on behalf of Jordan concentrated on the basic points and principles of the Jordanian position in light of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions. The speech explained the concept of and requirements for future peace. I believe that the atmosphere of the conference was ceremonial. However, the Israeli minister's speech tackled the border issue. This afternoon we will respond to the border issue between Israel and Jordan. We will reply to that false allegation very forcefully today. I believe that the atmosphere was more ceremonial than anything else.

[Reporter] What is your comment on the Palestinian delegation's refusal to participate in the conference?

[Abu-Jabir] We voiced our regret in my speech, and I also voiced my personal regret on behalf of Jordan about the Palestinian absence. We believe that the Palestinian presence is necessary and basic for this meeting because Palestinians inside the occupied territories are unable to talk about arrangements in the region concerning water, Palestinian refugees, the region's security, economic developments, and other issues. They are living under occupation, and at least 65 percent of the Palestinian people are living outside Palestine, most of whom live in

refugee camps. We stressed the need for the Palestinian presence in future meetings, God willing.

[Reporter] We thank Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Addresses Session

NC2801215092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] The second session of the multilateral Middle East peace talks concluded earlier today after the participating delegations delivered their speeches. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa spoke during the session, stating that regional cooperation alone cannot constitute a framework for peace unless it is founded on the bases of justice and law. For this to be done, he stressed, Israel would have to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and recognize the Palestinian people's rights in exchange for Palestinian recognition of Israel's right to exist within its recognized borders, in accordance with the principles and objectives of international law.

Musa demanded that the United Nations participate in the Moscow talks as a full entity, and not merely as an observer. It is the United Nations, he said, that gave legitimacy to Israel's existence from the very beginning through its 1947 resolution establishing the State of Israel. Musa demanded that all parties participate seriously and show political will so that a real peace process, not just political maneuverings, can take place. He noted that the lack of progress in bilateral talks led to Syria's absence from the talks. This, he said, is bound to nip regional cooperation projects in the bud and eliminate the opportunity currently available.

In his address, the foreign minister underlined the responsibility of the major powers outside the region for the continuation and success of the peace process, as a prelude to establishing regional cooperation and ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons above all.

Holds News Conference

NC2901193592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 29 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that the multilateral talks are an element of the overall peace process, which is built on the land-for-peace principle.

At a news conference in Moscow this evening, Musa said: We meet after the second day of multilateral talks, after achieving some positive results. As we meet in Moscow, our eyes and minds are fixed on the bilateral talks and how they will develop, he said.

Musa was asked whether the working groups that met today made any progress. He responded that there is widespread agreement on establishing a committee to handle the Palestinian refugee issue. He said that negotiations will be resumed later.

The second phase of negotiations will take the form of seminars, he said, adding: We will monitor the outcome of these negotiations closely.

I have to underline the importance of achieving progress in the bilateral talks, the minister said. The general committee emphasized this at the conclusion of its meeting today and took note of the sponsors' approval of involving Palestinians from outside the occupied territories in some of the committees established at the multilateral conference, he added.

Musa said: The conference sponsors, the United States and the Russian Federation, "yesterday declared their support for the participation of Palestinians from outside the occupied territories. This declaration and support are significant and represent a positive approach. Egypt supports that declaration." We believe, he continued, that all participants in these talks, including the Israelis, will support it as well.

Noting that Egypt is participating in the five working groups, Musa said Egypt also will fully participate in the upcoming seminars. I once again highlight the importance of the land-for-peace principle so that we can enhance further the suggestion initiated yesterday.

Musa was asked to comment on Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi's statement that the Jordan River is the border between Israel and Jordan. He responded by saying that this part of Minister Levi's statement is regrettable because, he continued, Israel has no right whatsoever to the West Bank. This phrase will damage the entire peace process, he continued, not only the multilateral negotiations.

The West Bank will continue to be Arab land occupied militarily by the Israelis, he declared. The land-for-peace principle, therefore, applies in this case. The Israelis must withdraw from occupied Arab territories, Musa said.

Minister Musa added: I regret what Levi said. I would like to add that I just came from an expanded meeting at the Egyptian Embassy in Moscow at which the participants continued the discussion they began at a meeting held at the same location yesterday. Everyone was dismayed greatly by Levi's remarks, Musa said.

I believe that the repetition of such remarks could undermine the very basis of the peace process, he continued. He then called on Levi and Israeli officials to refrain from such remarks, which totally contradict international law, the spirit of the peace process, and the peace framework agreed upon in Madrid.

Answering a question on the purpose of starting the second phase of the multilateral talks with seminars, the foreign minister said: There has been an agreement to do it this way to explore areas of cooperation and also to give a chance for the bilateral negotiations to make some progress. For this to happen, he added, Israel has to stop building settlements on occupied Arab land.

The foreign minister noted that all the delegations came to Moscow to accelerate the peace process and to cooperate to make the process successful. The Egyptian delegation yesterday announced its rejection of one country's use of a veto against a delegation taking part in the negotiations. This is why the Palestinians did not take part, he said.

I do believe, Minister Musa added, that the Palestinians will take part in the upcoming round of talks in accordance with what the cosponsors of the conference announced, adding that he believes that the problem has been solved.

Musa said that Moscow will continue its role as a cosponsor of the conference with the United States. Moscow, he noted, supports the participation of Palestinians from outside the occupied land, and this is a positive contribution.

Egypt is satisfied, he added, with the positive role played by the Russian Federation, noting: We, the Arabs, have relations with the Russian people and the nations of the new Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. We are grateful for the participation of two CIS countries in these negotiations.

The foreign minister said that he hopes that Israel will respond favorably to the consensus concerning the participation of Palestinians from outside the occupied land, saying that a single state cannot impose its views on 30 countries, which is the number of nations participating in the negotiations.

Responding to a question on the prospects of resuming negotiations in the Middle East, Musa said the issue has not been rejected in principle. Under the present circumstances, however, we should not rush into holding such meetings in the region, mainly because one of the parties concerned is being occupied by another party, he said. It would be an injustice to the Palestinians for negotiations to be held in the occupied territories, he said, adding: The best solution for now is to hold negotiations outside the region.

Musa said that following expanded meetings in the past few days with all parties concerned, there is a common desire to support the peace process and a feeling that the resumption of bilateral talks without progress on central issues will damage the process.

Musa urged Israel and the Arab parties to discuss the central issues at the next bilateral meeting, scheduled for 7 and 8 February. I seize this opportunity to appeal to all not to waste this opportunity by raising a procedural controversy and to concentrate in later discussions on how to implement UN resolutions, he said, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

The foreign minister mentioned that eastern Jerusalem was occupied in 1967. It falls, therefore, within the context of UN Security Council Resolution 242. Bilateral meetings are the correct venue for discussions on this issue, he emphasized. As for the status of the city of Jerusalem, it is governed by the UN resolution for the year 1948 and it should be studied through a general discussion, he said.

Syria is entitled to its own stand on the process, he said in response to a question. Syria said the main reasons for its absence are Israeli practices, the continuation of settlement building, the expulsion of citizens, and Israel's failure to show the will to encourage serious negotiations based on the land-for-peace principle.

Minister Musa concluded that some basic elements are needed for progress to be made in the negotiations: commitment to the basic formula underlying the peace process—namely, the land-for-peace principle; pursuing a policy in the occupied territories that encourages the continuation of the peace process; and a commitment to make responsible statements.

Delegates, Ministers Review Results of Meetings

JN2901200392 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Salim 'Ali Dhiyab report from Moscow]

[Text] The working teams stemming from the preparatory meeting of the multilateral talks concluded their meetings in Moscow this morning.

[Begin Jordanian delegation member Fayiz al-Tarawinah recording] The five committees, or working teams, held simultaneous meetings at the conference hall this morning. The economic committee was chaired by the EC. It has been decided to hold this committee's meetings in Brussels on 10 or 11 May. The committee also discussed the agenda, which will be confined to one article in general: namely, the bases through which the peace process can be supported in terms of economic matters. There was the impression in this committee, as well as others, that it is too early now to discuss specialized issues at the regional level. Discussions should be held in general terms and efforts should be exerted to explore the facts in the region.

The United States is chairing the water committee. This committee's meetings might be held in Turkey or Austria.

Japan is chairing the environment committee. Japan will send a mission to the region in the coming two months, and this mission's report will become the agenda of the committee which will convene in Tokyo at the end of April.

The fourth committee deals with conventional and nonconventional arms control. This committee, which is chaired by Russia, will hold its first meeting in Washington. The other meetings might be held in various European countries.

The fifth committee, on refugees, is chaired by Canada, which will host the first meeting.

In general, the first meetings of all committees will be held either at the end of April or the beginning of May.

Deep regret was expressed in the meetings of these committees over the fact that the Palestinians, especially Palestinians from the diaspora, were not allowed to participate in the conference, particularly on issues related to refugee affairs, economic matters, and other topics as well. Regret also was expressed because Syria and Lebanon did not attend. This nonattendance shows that progress in the bilateral talks has been slow. [end recording]

Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at the Russian Foreign Ministry's guest palace in the presence of the Jordanian ambassador to Moscow. The two ministers discussed outlooks for cooperation between Jordan and Russia, the peace process, and Palestinian representation in the multilateral talks.

[Begin Abu-Jabir recording] We held an in-depth discussion regarding Palestinian representation. I asked Minister Kozyrev to meet the strong demands of the Palestinian brothers on the need for their participation in the next stage of multilateral talks, particularly the Palestinians in the diaspora. [end recording]

Dr. Abu-Jabir also met with PRC Vice Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang, who is leading his delegation to the multilateral talks. Relations between the two friendly countries, as well as how they could be bolstered and reinforced, were discussed.

[Begin Yang recording in Arabic] We support the Palestinian position. The Palestinian delegation should attend because they are the owner of the cause. The owner of the cause should attend and participate in tackling the issue. The Chinese stand supports the Arab states' position on this issue. [end recording]

At his place of residence in Moscow, Dr. Abu-Jabir met with the Tunisian foreign minister and PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who is currently in Moscow. The talks dealt with coordinating the Arab positions and the need to support Palestinian representation in the multilateral talks.

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] Our meeting a short while ago with His Excellency Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir was within the framework of the continuous coordination and consultation which takes place minute by minute to follow up the work of this conference. In fact, our unified and identical positions and steps are achieving results. We hope that these results will achieve results and appear in the next few hours. [end recording]

Therefore, the issues discussed today were procedural; the issues and problems were not discussed in an essential way. The next stages of the multilateral talks will answer all questions.

Jordan's Abu-Jabir Meets With Gorbachev

JN2901203492 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir met with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow today. Their talks dealt with the Middle East peace conference and the multilateral talks. At the end of the meeting, the former Soviet president made the following statement to our correspondent:

[Begin Gorbachev recording in Russian with sentence-by-sentence translation into Arabic] In any case, I felt that every minister is determined to continue the process to achieve peace in the Middle East, taking into consideration mutual interests and mutual respect. For my own part, I would like to support this mood and ambition. In Madrid, I said that this process would not be simple; it will be very difficult to solve this complex problem. However, it is necessary to proceed along this path. Regardless of the difficulties, it is necessary to move forward. I believe that one step after another, we will be able to remove some obstacles placed by the participants in these talks. I believe that it is impossible to imagine that a party will be a winner and another will be a loser. I believe that there will be neither a winner nor a loser. If there is a victory, it will be mutual, and if there is a defeat, it, too, will be mutual. It is known that many nations have lived in that region for centuries; they will stay there. We should think of continuing this coexistence in a cultured and civilized atmosphere. [end recording]

Algeria Not To Participate in Multilaterals

LD2801151592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Algeria has decided not to participate in the Moscow multilateral talks on peace in the Middle East.

During his weekly meeting with the national press, Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi stressed that the Algerian stance was adopted after it had been confirmed that the Palestinian side would not participate in the Moscow talks. Brahimi said that Algeria has avoided taking a position opposed to the talks because it has been waiting for the Palestinian stance to be declared. The motives behind the Algerian decision are disappointment at the lack of progress in the peace talks and the Israeli stance of taking and not giving, Brahimi asserted.

Arab Negotiator Sees Arab Oil in Israeli Ports

LD2701182492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1655 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Paris, 27 Jan (KUNA)—One of the Arab negotiators who will participate in the Moscow conference tomorrow has stated that Arab participation in the talks aims at giving a push forward to the peace process and the stumbled bilateral talks in Washington. The negotiator, who asked not to be named, told KUNA that both

Washington and Moscow have urged the Arabs to attend the Moscow conference to benefit from the somewhat flexibile attitude taken by the Israelis during the bilateral negotiations. But he pointed out that the Moscow conference will provide an opportunity for the normalization of Arab-Israeli relations and will offer Israel numerous strategic advantages going beyond its mere recognition after 45 years of war.

It is recalled that Syria and Lebanon have decided not to go to Moscow to protest Israel's failure to make any concessions thus far. As for the other Arab sides, including Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, the Gulf Cooperatioan Council, and the other international organizations invited to attend, they have affirmed that they will do so.

The Arab negotiator said that the multilateral talks which will begin in Moscow tomorrow will open the door for Israel to enter negotiations for the common use of water resources, particularly the Lebanese Litani River and the Jordanian Yarmuk River. He pointed out that the normalization of Arab-Israeli relations will bolster Israeli industrial and agricultural exports and could transform Israeli ports into outlets for the export of Arab oil. He also pointed out that the alleviation of tension in the region will promote tourism to Israel by nationals of Western countries who are deterred from visiting Israel because of the instability in the region.

Israel Conditionally Agrees to Refugee Talks

TA2801144392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem have said that the convening of work groups on the issue of refugees is agreeable to Israel, provided the groups do not include representatives of the Palestinian diaspora or East Jerusalem. The sources added that although the convening of such groups had not been agreed on in advance, Israel will consent to their convening tomorrow, because it will be a mere technical session where dates for future discussions will be set.

Israeli Negotiators Praise Atmosphere

TA2901154792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Shortly before the end of the Moscow talks, it was reported that the five working groups would continue their discussions in Belgium, Canada, the United States, Japan, and either Turkey or Austria. The dates and venues will be finalized later this evening.

Israeli representatives have reported constructive discussions and personal meetings with Arab representatives. Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel said that the committee on regional economic development raised several proposals for the coming sessions, that the talks were very positive, and that all the parties participated actively.

Yehuda Hayim, a member of the committee on refugees, described the atmosphere as so informal and matter-of-fact that he put his prepared speech aside and spoke freely. He said he felt as though he were sitting among friends seeking to resolve a problem. He held a tete-a-tete with the Jordanian representative and later had a private conversation with the Omani representative. David Sultan, who participated in the committee on water resources, also praised the matter-of-fact discussions.

On Committee Sessions

TA2901172692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1540 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Report by Moscow correspondent Mikha'el Karpin]

[Text] The committees deliberated about two and a half hours today. Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze emerged from his meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi just as the Israeli delegates were walking back to their hotel. One of them was Dr. Yehoyada' Hayim, head of the Israeli team to the committee on refugees. Although the Foreign Ministry's director general forbade him to grant interviews, Dr. Hayim said he was pleased. At the beginning of the deliberations, he told the committee: If you plan to discuss the question of refugees, you should discuss me. I am a refugee from Iraq.

[Begin recording] [Karpin] Sir, has a process begun here that will evolve and lead to practical results?

[Dan Zaslawsky, delegate to the committee on water issues] I think so. I think it will lead to real results because the problems are real. The general atmosphere is that the problems should be approached from a technical point of view rather than a political one.

[Karpin] Was Israel's fight for water resources in the 1950's and 1960's raised in the deliberations this morning?

[Zaslawsky] Please allow me not to reply on that point, however much the issue may tickle your curiosity. The matter is still being discussed and will yet be discussed in the future. I hope progress will be made on that issue. This was the first step, and we took it. The whole thing could have blown up, but it did not. We are now past it. Businesslike discussions were held, and a consensus was reached on many points.

[David 'Ivri, delegate to the committee on arms control] First of all, the fact that we agreed on procedural matters is very important. When you hear that your neighbors in the region agree to the issue being raised, things start to sound better. The weighty issues that we will have to tackle at the end or toward the end of the process were intentionally not raised. Some of the countries of the region did not take part in today's deliberations—some of the most important countries, such as Syria, Iraq, and Iran, which we expect will join the process later. We did not insist on their participation as a prerequisite,

because we want to begin the process and build confidence. When the process gets under way, I believe other countries will join in.

[Karpin] Mr. 'Ivri, can you discuss substance without Syria?

['Ivri] We decided that this will initially be a learning process, and this can be done without Syria. I believe in a process to build confidence through all kinds of steps that are not necessarily all-regional. Take the Red Sea area, for example. Not all the countries of the region border on it. We can reach an understanding and coordinate a process of confidence building so as to prevent tensions in that area. If we succeed in arriving at such partial agreements with some of the countries, I believe that will help promote other moves in the future.

[Karpin] Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel, how would you sum up today's discussions?

[Ya'aqov Frenkel, delegate to the committee on regional economic development] We are certainly talking about a protracted process, a process that always starts with a few small steps. I would describe what we saw today as the warm-up and as a necessary step in a very long process. Of course, although we cannot point to any substantial achievements, we can definitely describe it as a good start, as the necessary start of an exercise that will not be all that simple.

[Karpin] Uri Marinov, were these practical deliberations?

[Uri Marinov, delegate to the committee on ecology] The deliberations were very positive and were held in a very businesslike atmosphere. Hardly any political issues were raised. My feeling is that the people sense that environmental issues can help us promote the peace process, that the environmental problems are hard, that our region is particularly sensitive to ecological issues, and that only regional cooperation can lead to their solution.

[Karpin] Mr. Marinov, you sound very optimistic. Will this process lead to practical results?

[Marinov] Yes, definitely. We expect to hold more meetings very soon. In talks I held outside the meeting hall, I found the people to be really serious and truly wanting to make progress. [end recording]

Jerusalem TV Highlights Role of PLO Members

TA2901204892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Report from Moscow by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir and Ehud Ya'ari; italicized passages in Arabic]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] The Palestinians boycotted all the meetings in Moscow in a bid to erode the Madrid formula that determined who would be able to participate in the political negotiations with Israel. This time, the United States, Russia, and Israel, of course, firmly objected to any erosion of the formula. Were the Palestinians given a vague promise by the United States about the future? One phenomenon clearly was evident: coordination between the PLO and the Palestinian delegates from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Here is a report by Ehud Ya'ari:

[Begin recording] [Ya'ari] *What is your assessment of the results of the working committees?*

[Faysal al-Husayni] *We came here to participate in the work of the conference. We registered the names of the delegation. We are ready to go to any meeting if this delegation is allowed to attend. Unfortunately, not all the members of the delegation were permitted to participate, and we were asked to adhere to the Madrid formula. We went to Madrid on the basis of the letter given to us—that the Palestinians are free and that they alone will choose their delegation. We decided, of our own free will, not to include members that might lead to an Israeli withdrawal from Madrid. Here, however, the situation is different, and we refuse to adhere to a specific formula. That is an Israeli condition, and we reject conditions.*

[Ya'ari] *What do you think of the shift that has occurred in the U.S. position?*

[Al-Husayni] *The shift in the U.S. position is a step forward. We will be ready to attend when it is implemented in practice.*

[Ya'ari] *What, exactly, is the U.S. promise?*

[Al-Husayni] *The Americans have acknowledged that it is not possible to discuss regional issues without the presence of Palestinians from outside the occupied territories.*

[Ya'ari] On 'Arafat's orders, the Palestinians insisted on the inclusion of residents of East Jerusalem and Palestinians from the diaspora, but they were not allowed to participate in the talks. Their delegation arrived in Moscow with a large number of PLO men. Although 'Arafat ordered members of the PLO Executive Committee and other PLO officials from Tunis not to be conspicuous, that was difficult.

The PLO's senior activists in Moscow did not hide in their rooms, as they did in Madrid and Washington; they were a central part of the team. Faysal al-Husayni and his colleagues can be seen in this video clip riding in the same car flying a Palestinian flag with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab, members of the PLO Executive Committee. The car is that of Nabil 'Amr, the PLO ambassador to Moscow, on the way to preparatory talks to arrange an audience with Baker. They were very angry at us—they actually were furious—because we photographed them entering the same car together, because this proves that they are in contact. We told them that the media cannot be an accomplice to the obvious pretense that this contact was not happening. The cooperation between the men from Tunis and the delegates from the territories can no longer be concealed.

Incidentally, their intention is to highlight it—gradually, but increasingly—later on in the process. Meanwhile, they are not sorry that they stayed out.

[Al-Najjab] *Unfortunately, the Palestinian delegation could not participate in the conference under this formula for reasons beyond its control. We actually are eager and interested in seeing a normal situation in the region under which all the nations and states there will enjoy a life of peace and progress and in which relations will be based on international legitimacy and resolutions, as well as on respect for human rights.*

['Abd-Rabbuh] *We believe this formula is now undergoing modification. The coming phases of this conference will see a comprehensive Palestinian participation contributing to the aims of the conference.*

[Ya'ari] *The fact is that most of the Arab delegations took part in the talks today, but the Palestinian delegation remained outside.*

['Abd-Rabbuh] *The Palestinian delegation was in contact with all the Arab and international parties, which expressed their full understanding for the Palestinian position. Let me remind you that Secretary Baker said that he will support the Palestinian position on representation from outside and inside the occupied territories in the committees of the conference. [end recording]*

Netanyahu on Moscow Forum, Refugee Problem

TA2801171092 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Interview with Binyamin Netanyahu, deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office, by Dan Shilon at the Jerusalem studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Shilon] Good evening, sir. Is this another leg in the long journey headed nowhere?

[Netanyahu] Yes, definitely. I think this is not exactly the format we wanted, and we are disappointed with the absence of both the Syrians and the Palestinian part of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. However, despite all the disappointment, this was the first attempt to....[changes thought] I am not trying to belittle the event—and I am not now referring to the number of media representatives here.

Look, we are trying to attain bilateral peace negotiations, first and foremost, but there are issues that I believe are the crux of peace: water, agriculture, preventing environmental pollution, curbing the arms race, resolving the refugee problem that has weighed down on all of us for 50 years now. These issues will be discussed in the present forum, or perhaps in forums that will evolve from the present one.

It is true that something has begun, but apparently the Arabs have failed to understand that the advantages of peace, which I have briefly outlined here, are as beneficial to them as they are to us. When they understand that point, we will make speedier progress.

[Shilon] They do not seem to be approaching the kind of understanding you have mentioned. Today we found ourselves attending a conference where the main partners—the Palestinians and the Syrians—are not speaking with us at all. Do we have to travel to Moscow to hear a speech by Iceland's foreign minister?

[Netanyahu] Perhaps, but you must not forget the extensive representation of the rest of the Arab world at the Moscow talks. No one said this was going to be simple. I do not want to knock the achievement. The fact is that the process is just beginning, and if any Arabs expected this to be a quick achievement, or if they hoped to finish us off in one fell swoop, they are going to be disappointed. This is going to be a slow negotiation between two—in the case of Moscow, many—sides, but the important thing is that it has started.

[Shilon] Would it be true to say that our side has not shown any creativity in seeking solutions and promoting the process? What we have done is react, more or less, rather than make dramatic moves that could bring about a breakthrough.

[Netanyahu] The main dramatic move would be the termination of the state of belligerency on the part of the Arabs, but the obstacles they have been piling up—first in Madrid, then in Washington, and now in Moscow—seem to indicate that they are pursuing their usual course. They are attempting to pile obstacles on the path we have been trying to clear.

As for proposals raised in Moscow, I want you to know that most of them were initiated by the Israeli Government—the refugee problem, for instance, on which the Arabs insist so persistently. Who has resettled refugees in the Middle East? Jordan and Israel, but mainly Israel. We resettled refugees in the 1970's. We adopted the Ben-Porat plan, and this government's peace initiative includes a refugee clause that was opposed by the Arabs themselves. I once raised that proposal with senior U.S. Administration officials, but they said they could make no progress with the refugee plan because it was opposed by the Arab world. Now that world has a chance to stop opposing our plan. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] Another sentence before we conclude, Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Has the U.S. position eroded to a certain extent, at least from Israel's viewpoint? Should we expect the Palestinian delegation to include what they term the Palestinian diaspora, in other words the PLO, in the next stage of talks?

[Netanyahu] I hope fervently that there will be no such attempt for the simple reason that, as I said, we want to solve the refugee problem and we have initiated solutions, some of which have been officially proposed. However, if the Arab world, and mainly the PLO, think that the refugee problem will be resolved by flooding

Israel, which absorbed Jewish refugees from Arab countries 40 or 50 years ago—if they believe the refugee problem will be resolved by bringing the Palestinian diaspora to the Coastal Plain, to Yafo, 'Akko, or Ashqelon—they should forget it at once. The refugee problem has to be resolved, but Israel will not be liquidated as part of that solution. We will not allow it.

[Shilon] Thank you very much, Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Central Eurasian Reportage on Arab-Israeli Talks

WA2901144592

For Central Eurasian reportage on the Arab-Israeli talks in Moscow please see the Russia "International Affairs" section of the 28 January Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Morocco To Present Arab View at UN Meeting

LD2401213792 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a statement after the Arab foreign ministers' meeting ended in Marrakech, [Arab League secretary general] 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that the Arab foreign ministers agreed that Morocco will serve as spokesman for the Arabs at the UN Security Council meeting on 31 January.

We have trust in his majesty, who will represent the Arab countries at the UN Security Council meeting, the Arab League secretary general said. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Musa on NAM, UN Summit, Algeria

NC2601111492 Cairo MENA in English 1030 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Marrakech, Morocco, Jan. 26 (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that a meeting of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) will be held on February 3 in Cyprus to exchange viewpoints concerning the reactivation of the movement. The meeting will discuss the chairmanship of the Non-Alignment Movement in view of the circumstances through which Yugoslavia is passing, he added.

In statements to a MENA correspondent here, the foreign minister said that the NAM is in a very bad position, demanding that the so-called Third World forums be reactivated, particularly the NAM in view of the current international variables.

On the recent meeting in Marrakech of a number of Arab foreign ministers under King Hasan II, the Egyptian foreign minister said that the meeting was held for consultation and not for decision making. He added that the imminent summit meeting of the Security Council's member states was the essence of this consultation, noting that some ideas concerning the final communique to be issued by the summit were discussed at the Marrakech meeting.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that he met with Arab ministers on the sidelines of the Marrakech meeting to discuss topics of interest to common Arab action, particularly the Middle East peace process, expanding the circle of Arab understanding, and consolidating Arab relations.

'Amr Musa said that the meeting with Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahimi dealt with the situation in Algeria following the recent events there. "The Algerian foreign minister spoke in detail on the dimensions of the situation in his country and its relations with the Arab Maghreb states as well as these states' stance towards the developments in Algeria," he added. [passage omitted]

Emergency Pan-Arab Conference Proceedings Noted

LD2901170692 Tripoli JANA in English 1439 GMT 29 Jan 92

["Arab Maghreb Union pool" item]

[Text] Tripoli, A'Ina Al-Nar [January] 28 JANA [dateline as received]—In Tripoli yesterday evening the proceedings of the pan Arab emergency meeting organised by the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress, to confront the dangers faced by Arab nation began and will continue until the 30th of this month A'Ina al-Nar.

The secretary of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress opened the meeting highlighting the dangers which threaten the Arab nation and the importance of defending its existence in order for it to live in complete dignity and freedom on its land and below the sun.

A number of speeches were given by the Arab delegations representing popular political parties, forces, organisations from the Arab nation, spanning the sea to the Gulf, strongly condemning UN Security Council Resolution 731 affirming that this resolution is directed at the capabilities, achievements and resources of the Arab nation in its entirety and stressing the urgency of assuming one's national duty and for confronting imperialism.

They also declared the solidarity and stand of most of the Arab popular forces alongside the Great Jamahiriyah in the face of the neo-colonialist campaign, headed by the United States of America and preventing her from having a monopoly on international opinion and decision-taking in her promotion the new world order.

In their speeches, the speakers praised the braveness of the Arab Libyan people and her brave withstanding of all plots and conspiracies which attempt to deprive the Arab

nation of its freedom and their independence reasserting Arab steadfastness to further Arab dignity, esteem and honour.

The speakers also called for the need to adopt a united Arab stance in the face of this neo colonialist campaign which is led by the United States of America stressing that comprehensive Arab unity stretching from the sea to the Gulf is the sole means by which to ensure the Arab nation's dignity.

During this session, the first point related to the neo colonialist campaign conducted against the Great Jamahiriyah was discussed whereby two papers were presented, the first detailing the neo coloinialist campaign and the second giving a legal and political analysis of the Security Council resolution.

Approximately 100 delegates took part in this meeting comprising heads and leaders of popular organisations, political parties and forces in addition to Arab nationalist and Islamic intellectuals and thinkers.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Rejects Participation in Moscow Talks

JN2601122692 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1205 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] A short while ago, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, declared that the PLO rejects Palestinian participation in the multilaterals in Moscow within the formula currently proposed. The PLO wants the Palestinian delegation to reflect a comprehensive representation that includes delegations from inside the occupied territories, the diaspora, and East Jerusalem. 'Abd-Rabbuh added that this decision will be declared by the PLO Executive Committee as soon as it concludes its meetings this afternoon, and that it is possible for the PLO to suffice by dispatching envoys to Moscow to convey its position on the sidelines of the multilaterals, the preparatory stage of which will begin on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Russian capital.

'Arafat Urges U.S. To Honor Talks Commitment

LD2501220392 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has urged the United States to honor its commitments regarding the representation of the Palestinian people at the multilateral talks on the Middle East. The Palestinian president said that Washington had promised to invite Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories to attend the multilateral talks. However, so far the United States has not budged from its traditional position on Palestinian representation.

He pointed out that he has sent a message to this effect to the U.S. White House via the British ambassador to Tunis.

Meets Ambassadors, Notes U.S. 'Bias'

JN2601171592 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has received separately the ambassadors of the Security Council permanent members. They are Chinese Ambassador Hu Changlin, Russian Ambassador Boris Shchiborin, British Ambassador David Hannay, and French Ambassador Alain Grenier. Brother Abu-'Ammar also received the troika ambassadors headed by Portuguese Ambassador Reino, Portugal being the current chairman of the EC. Brother Abu-'Ammar also received Austrian Ambassador in Tunis Johann Pasch.

During the meetings, a comprehensive review of all Palestinian developments, especially the bilateral talks, was made, noting the U.S. retraction on Palestinian representation in the second and third phases, of which the Moscow multilateral talks are a part. These retractions threaten the negotiations and the peace process. U.S. bias toward the Israeli side at the expense of our Palestinain people and their just cause, as fully reflected in Washington talks, was also noted. So far, these talks have produced nothing, because the chief concern of Israel was to buy time, and this enjoyed full American cover.

Brother Abu-'Ammar and the ambassadors also discussed the situation in the occupied territories from all aspects, especially the escalation of the policy of oppression, deportation, and settlement building.

Receives Letter From Russian Leaders

JN2701181092 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has received a letter from the Russian leadership dealing with the multilateral peace conference, due to open in Moscow the day after tomorrow, Tuesday [as heard]. The letter, described by the Palestinian news agency as important, was handed over by the Russian charge d'affaires (Vitos) when the Palestinian president received him in Tunis today. The letter was delivered as the Palestinian leadership was in session debating Palestinian participation in the Moscow conference.

'Arafat's Adviser Arrives in Cairo for Talks

NC2901091392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Cairo early today following consultations with 'Arafat and several Palestinian officials in Tunis.

During the visit, Dr. Sha'th will meet with Egyptian officials on the Washington bilateral talks, the multilateral talks, which started in Moscow yesterday, and the Palestinian position.

'Arafat Receives 'Urgent Message' From Mubarak

JN2901175392 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has received an urgent message from President Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. WAFA has learned that the message deals with the Palestinian delegation's participation in the multilateral talks, which began in the Russian capital, Moscow, yesterday.

Officials Comment on Participation in Moscow Talks

Al-Hurani on Delegation's Composition

NC2901124792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Tunis, 29 Jan (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, said today that contacts are continuing between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat over the multilateral negotiations in Moscow and the question of Palestinians from outside the occupied territories and Jerusalem participating.

The Palestinian president received two messages from President Mubarak yesterday.

Al-Hurani told MENA's Tunis correspondent that there is considerable understanding of the Palestinian position among Arabs and Europeans alike. He said the Palestinian leadership sent messages yesterday to the European, Chinese, and Canadian Governments on current developments.

Al-Hurani said that it is impossible to ignore 4 million Palestinians residing outside the occupied territories. He added that Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories refuse to allow the Palestinian people and their cause to be fragmented and, at the same time, reject Israeli and U.S. maneuvers.

Al-Hurani explained that the PLO decided to participate in the Moscow negotiations, not according to the Madrid formula, but according to its own formula of including Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories and Jerusalem. He added that the PLO based its decision on the affirmation of the Palestinian people's unity inside and outside the occupied territories, the unity of their cause, and the fact that Jerusalem is an indivisible part of Palestinian territory. It also based its decision on the U.S. letter of assurances to allow Palestinians from outside the territories and Jerusalem to participate in the talks on the final solution. Al-Hurani said that in view of the fact that the Moscow conference is discussing issues connected with the final solution and the period following it, the PLO decided that Palestinians from outside the territories and Jerusalem had the right to be included in the Palestinian delegation and that the U.S. Administration has an obligation to abide by its promises.

Al-Hurani noted that by adopting this position, the PLO responded, on the one hand, to the international will to include Palestinians in the discussions and, on the other hand, it emphasized—through the makeup of the delegation—its commitment to its people's cause. He added that this means that the PLO tried to harmonize the two positions, but apparently the U.S. Administration's position appears to be the only effective position in this process.

He asserted that the PLO believes that the United States is reneging on its pledge. He expressed the hope that the other parties, particularly the Europeans, will pressure the sponsors of the peace conference to make them accept the Palestinian delegation's current makeup. [passage omitted]

Abu-Sharif on 'Israeli Blackmail'

LD2801164492 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1558 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Rabat, 28 Jan (MAP)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has declared that the PLO is very eager to continue the peace process. He said: "We have left the door open to ensure the success of this process, but not under Israeli terms."

In a statement to Radio Mediterranee Internationale, Medi 1, he pointed out that 35 states cannot possibly give in to Israeli blackmail on regional issues linked to the Middle East. He stressed the readiness of the Palestinians to participate effectively and positively if Palestinian representation is not limited to Palestinians living in the occupied territories but also includes the 4.5 million Palestinians living outside the occupied territories.

Regarding Palestinian participation in the multilateral talks according to the present formula proposed to the Palestinians, Abu-Sharif denied the reports of nonparticipation in the talks, indicating that this participation would be within the rules agreed upon.

Abu-Sharif also pointed out that the the Moscow meeting is not a bilateral meeting between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and an Israeli delegation to examine the issues of the occupied territories. He added in this respect that "the Moscow meeting plans to examine the rearrangement of the Middle East from the point of view of the economy, the environment, security, and water resources. Therefore, no small state which is not a superpower, namely Israel, has the right to hold sway over participating Arab states."

Moreover, he said that the Palestinian people have the right, like all the Arab states and the peoples represented at this meeting, to have a complete Palestinian delegation.

'Abd-al-Shafi Explains 'Boycott'

JN2901124792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1050 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; carried within the "Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, news reports today said that the bilateral talks will be resumed in Washington on the 15th of next month. Has the Palestinian delegation received an invitation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] To the best of my knowledge, no date has yet been set. However, as we said in Washington before the end of the previous round of talks, there is a possibility that the date would be around that time, and held in Washington. But I cannot confirm this.

[Mu'addi] What issues will be discussed during the next round of negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] At the end of the previous round, we submitted an agenda about the transitional period. We also submitted a detailed concept of this transitional period, its requirements, and how power should be transferred to the Palestinian Council during the transitional period. We hope the Israeli side will submit its views and be prepared to discuss these issues.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar, you said in Amman two days ago that the Palestinian side will participate in the Moscow conference as long as this conference is organizational and preparatory. However, the Palestinian delegation did not take part.

['Abd-al-Shafi] The Palestinian side has its own ideas on the formation of the Palestinian delegation, and the cosponsors of the multilateral conference did not approve this position. Therefore, as I understand it, the Palestinian side will boycott the talks because the delegation's make-up was disapproved.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said that the Palestinians, once again, missed an opportunity by not participating in the Moscow conference. What is your opinion?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not know, everyone has his own opinion. My opinion is that it is unfair and unjust to treat the Palestinian side differently. This is a major issue that we protest strongly; namely, to impose on the Palestinian side a certain formula that is not imposed on other sides. Therefore, the Palestinian position does not reject participation in the conference, but constitutes a protest against such treatment.

[Mu'addi] But the previous agreements with the U.S. Administration required that the Palestinians be represented by people from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the Palestinians agreed to this. Why are you deviating from these agreements?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, this was the case with the bilateral talks and the convocation of the ceremonial conference in Madrid. Nothing specific was decoded regarding the multilateral conference. At any rate, from a Palestinian viewpoint, the Palestinian side has proved its sincerity toward and seriousness in dealing with the peace process. This treatment of the Palestinians is no longer justified. After showing its interest in the peace process, the Palestinians should not have been treated this way.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar, do you think the decision not to participate in the Moscow conference will have repercussions on the bilateral negotiations that will be resumed in Washington?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Not necessarily. I cannot see any negative repercussions. We still take a serious and sincere position on the bilateral talks and, in fact, we want to achieve a just peace in the region. This is in the interest of all sides.

[Mu'addi] Thank you, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

Al-Khatib on Participation

JN2601120692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1055 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Interview with Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi, radio correspondent for West Bank affairs, carried within the "With the Midday Events" program on 26 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, a meeting was held this morning in which a number of members of the Palestinian team participated. What took place during this meeting?

[Al-Khatib] It is a routine meeting held frequently. In today's meeting, an assessment was made of the positive and negative aspects regarding participation in the multilateral conference in Moscow. An assessment was made and is supposed to be sent to the concerned Palestinian sides outside the occupied territories within the delegation or its advisory council. The assessment supported the idea of boycotting the Moscow conference for three reasons. First, no progress was made in the bilateral talks, and we believe that holding the multilateral conference without making any progress in the bilateral talks will weaken the possibilities of any progress in the bilateral talks, and will prompt Israel not to continue with those talks. Second, there is a lack of sufficient Arab

coordination, and Arab-Palestinian coordination. Third, which is important, the conditions for representation of the Palestinian side were unjust and unacceptable. Jerusalem, the PLO, and Palestinians from outside the territories were excluded.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan, was this recommendation adopted unanimously or with a majority?

[Al-Khatib] Yes. his was the prevailing inclination of the participants.

[Mu'addi] Did you take into consideration the impact of this decision; namely, not to go to Moscow, in terms of creating rifts in Arab-Palestinian relations?

[Al-Khatib] In fact, this recommendation must not create any rifts, especially as there is understanding with the countries taking part in the bilateral negotiations, even Jordan which has accepted participation in the Moscow meeting. The Palestinian leadership contacted Jordan, and it understands the peculiarities of the Palestinian situation in this regard.

[Mu'addi] Thank you Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian negotiating team.

[Al-Khatib] You are welcome.

PLO Factions Issue Strike Call Against Talks

NC2701175292 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The PLO factions command in Sidon issued a statement today calling for a strike in the Palestinian camps in the south tomorrow to protest the multilateral talks. The statement noted that the objective of the U.S. Administration, the goal of its new world order, and the purpose of the multilateral talks is to bring about Arab-Israeli normalization and maintain Israel's security.

Meanwhile, Abu-Fadi Hammad and Abu-Muhammad Walid, officials in the Palestinian National Salvation Front, today visited Prime Minister 'Umar Karami and discussed Palestinians affairs and the multilateral talks.

Speaking after the meeting, Hammad stated: Once again, unfortunately, the PLO leadership has let everyone down by deciding to join the peace talks, in disregard of all values and principles and without any justification. He added: Had we not gone to the Madrid and Washington talks, we would have been the biggest winners.

PFLP Attacks PLO Reliance on U.S. 'Promises'

JN2801185092 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Commenting on reports carried by news agencies this morning on the Palestinian delegation's decision not to attend the Moscow meetings of the multilateral conference, Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] assistant secretary general, said the PFLP still hopes this position will provide the opportunity for a chance to reconsider the entire policy and to abandon any illusions about following U.S. concepts.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa said: The PFLP, which appreciates this Palestinian delegation's position, hoped that such a position had been set earlier in order to deter those Arab parties following the U.S. plan to normalize relations and to create division with the Zionist enemy.

The PFLP held a meeting of its Political Bureau and issued the following statement: The PFLP, having expressed its principled positions and warning against any pro-U.S. trend and what it may lead to—a warning that was proved right—notes that the influential leadership in the PLO is still pursuing the same course by relying on U.S. promises, which do not coincide at all with Palestinian national principles and Arab rights.

PFLP's Habash Flown to Paris Following Stroke

JN2901191792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] A medical source told our radio that Dr. George Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has arrived in Paris from Tunis. The French Red Cross organization supervised his transfer with the French Government's approval. He will receive treatment at a Paris hospital following a recent illness in Tunis.

The London newspaper AL-HAYAH today said that Habash was taken to a Tunis hospital the day before yesterday and that many well-wishers visited him, including Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. Citing its sources, the paper said that Habash, who suffered a stroke in the late seventies that led to surgery in East Germany, had a similar stroke in Tunis. The source said that it was decided that Habash should be transferred to a European country, probably France, to continue treatment and to determine if he needed additional surgery.

PFLP Not To Attend Meeting in Damascus

JN2601112792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has announced that the PFLP, which was expected to take part in the meeting due to be held in Damascus today, Sunday, by the factions opposed to the multilateral talks, will not participate in this meeting. The spokesman added that the PFLP will continue its endeavors to combat the efforts to conclude an American-Israeli settlement in the region, using all available means, as he put it.

Palestinian Factions, Figures Meet in Damascus

PLA Statement on Moscow Talks

JN2801210892 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] A spokesman for the [Damascus-based] General Staff of the Palestinian Liberation Army [PLA] has stated the following:

At the time when the entire world hoped for an international consensus on forcing Israel to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, stop its aggressive and expansionist policies, and end to its maneuvers and policies that obstructed the peace talks in Washington, the multilateral talks in Moscow are rewarding Israel for its hostility toward a just and comprehensive peace, strengthening Israeli intransigence, giving Shamir's government further encouragement to escalate its provocative positions that reject peace, and achieving Arab recognition of the Israeli aggressive presence, which is based on injustice, the usurpation of rights, and the occupation of Arab territories.

The multilateral talks, which began today in Moscow at the time when Israeli occupation continues and the settlement activities and the usurpation of Palestinian rights is intensifying, constitute a real threat to a just and comprehensive peace. The talks also bypass the ingredients for peace and its basic requirements, approved by the resolutions of international legitimacy, represented, first and foremost, by Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied territories and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to repatriation and self-determination on their land. As long as Israel brushes aside international legitimacy and avoids the path to a just and comprehensive peace, the Moscow talks give this enemy, in the presence of Arab and international parties, what it had failed to gain through war.

Therefore, we in the PLA highly appreciate the pan-Arab and pioneering position of Syria which rejects these talks. We stress our full solidarity with Syria in its insistence on its firm, pan-Arab principles and adherence to Arab rights. We urge all honorable and militant Arab forces to rally behind this pan-Arab position, exemplified by President al-Asad and all Syrians, in defense of the Arab existence, fate, and pride. We also appreciate Lebanon's position which coincides with the true Arab position.

Stressing the importance of our people's steadfastness inside the occupied Palestinian homeland and underlying the need to support that steadfastness which totally rejects all weak positions and capitulationist policies, we in the PLA urge all of our people's sectors, factions, and forces to be vigilant and fully prepared to face all attempts seeking to liquidate our people's cause and to decisively and strongly confront, with strong national unity, all conspiracies that target their history and struggles and seek to impose Israel's will on their will; and, consequently, to confront all the perils facing our Arab nation, particularly attempts to liquidate the Palestine question and impose Israeli hegemony over the entire Arab world.

Today, valiant Syria, which has affirmed its concern for a just and comprehensive peace and positively responded to the peace efforts, led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, represents not only the qiblah and conscious of the Arabs alone, but also the vanguard that can topple the enemies' schemes.

[Signed] The General Staff of the Palestinian Liberation Army

PNSF Rejects Participation

JN2801191192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF], has said he opposes the multilateral talks because they are being convened before achieving any progress in the bilateral talks, particularly concerning Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, halting the building of settlements, and ending the policy of deportation and oppression which Israel practices against Palestinian citizens. In a radio interview yesterday, al-Fahum said: We oppose these talks because they seek to normalize relations in the region before Israel pledges to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy that stipulate Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights. In his interview, al-Fahum called for U.S. and European pressure on Israel to implement the UN resolutions.

In a political statement issued in Damascus, Palestinian resistance factions and figures have declared that the Moscow talks constitute a real threat to the Palestinian people's interests, bypass their national inalienable rights to their land, and seek to liquidate the Palestine question as the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The statement stressed that the multilateral talks give the Israeli enemy, in the presence of Arab and international parties, what it failed to attain through war.

The statement praised the position of Syria which rejects these talks and its insistence on its firm pan-Arab principles, which are based on the attainment of the rights of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people to land and national and pan-Arab pride. The statement further hailed Lebanon's refusal to attend these talks.

In their statement, the Palestinian factions and figures also hailed the position of the Arab and Islamic states which refused to attend these talks and urged all sectors, forces, and factions of the Palestinian people to be vigilant to face all the attempts seeking to push them into such positions.

The Palestinian factions and figures also extolled the steadfastness of our Palestinian people and urged continued support to their valiant intifadah. They also called for strengthening the national unity inside and outside the occupied territories to confront the challenges and perils facing the Palestinian people.

Factions Issue Statement

JN2901083492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Damascus—Palestinian resistance factions and figures have announced that the multilateral talks, which will open in Moscow tomorrow, will legitimize the existence of the Zionist entity at the expense of the existence of the Palestinian people, who have undisputed legitimate rights to their homeland, land, and identity.

In a political statement issued at the conclusion of a meeting in Damascus yesterday, these factions and figures said that the Moscow talks constitute a real threat to the interests of the Palestinian people, deflect the Palestinian people's inalienable and historical rights to all their land, and downplay the conflict, turning it into merely a minor dispute and abandoning the Palestine question, which is indeed the essence of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The statement stresses that the multilateral talks give the Zionist enemy what it failed to achieve through war, served up on a golden platter and with Arab and international participation. The statement values Syria's rejection of the talks and its insistence on its firm pan-Arab principles, based on the rights of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people to land and national and pan-Arab dignity. The statement also praises Lebanon's refusal to participate in the talks and those Arab and Islamic countries that refuse to participate in the talks.

The statement urges all groups, forces, and factions of the Palestinian people to be alert for any attempts to force them into such positions. The statement salutes the steadfastness of our Palestinian people in the occupied homeland and calls for support for their valiant intifadah and for strengthening national unity inside and outside the occupied territories in order to confront the challenges and threats to the Palestinian people.

The statement is signed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas, the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-al-Sa'iqah, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, the Palestine National Liberation Movement-Fatah, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party, and the Palestine Liberation Front.

U.S., Israel Cannot Dictate Peace to Palestinians

LD2801201292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] In a statement to Israeli radio, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed his hope of obtaining $10 billion in U.S. financial guarantees, while continuing to fill the occupied territories with settlements. In a parallel statement, Israeli Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said that U.S. rejection of such guarantees would not affect the continuing settlements.

Therefore, the two statements complement one another and clearly define the elements of Israeli policy in the next phase. It is a policy characterized by defying international legitimacy, sabotaging the peace process, and preventing the negotiations from reaching their desired goals.

In light of this picture, the significance of the issue of U.S. guarantees and the repercussions of this issue on the whole of the U.S.-sponsored peace process are obvious.

The Israeli prime minister is trying to get everything without giving anything in return; he wants everything: loans and settlements. If this request is in fact granted, it will be the last nail in the coffin of the peace process, because if Washington grants Israel these loans it will be giving a reward to [word indistinct] to a state which still turns its back on international resolutions and does not give any weight even to U.S. interests.

The statements made by Shamir and Sharon clearly define the aspects of current and future Israeli policy in dealing with the peace efforts; any response from the U.S. Administration to Israel will represent a clear picture of U.S. directions in the region, which we hope will be harmonious with its declared position in rejecting settlements and also in line with the principles of right, justice, and international legality which the U.S. Administration claims that it desires to implement.

Therefore, Arabs must be alert to the implications of the current phase. This phase also warrants an international awakening, especially as Shamir continues to deprive Palestinians of their rights, even during the transitional phase; he is trying to turn the clock back when he speaks about Camp David, which is finished.

Our people will not accept the imposition of an Israeli or U.S. peace. The peace we desire is one of international legitimacy that will bring us freedom and an independent state. It is certain that our people will not yield to any measures that contravene this legitimacy. These measures exist as a result of the political crisis in Israel; they are trying to spread despair and to force the Arabs to accept a fait accompli.

Hamas Denies Involvement in Professor's Murder

TA2801151792 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 27 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] Amman—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has issued a statement in which it denied its involvement in the assassination of Albert Glock, the American professor at Bi'r Zayt University. Hamas condemned the murder and lauded Glock's efforts in promoting the Palestinian people's heritage.

In its issue of last Monday, THE JERUSALEM POST had cited a Palestinian source as saying that Hamas had killed Glock, the American university professor. The statement said that Hamas affirms that it has no connection whatsoever with the murder and that that report is unfounded.

Algeria

Further Reportage on 29 Jan Algiers Clashes

1 Killed, 12 Wounded in La Glaciere

LD2901221192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2000 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] After the scenes of disorder which took place in the La Glaciere-Hussein Dey district today, the Algiers wilaya police headquarters has issued a communique stating that the police intervened to prevent a meeting of a political nature inside the el-Nasir Mosque in the La Glaciere-Hussein Dey neighborhood.

These forces were the target of an attack by some 300 people of the district in question and of the surrounding areas. The people threw stones and other hard objects. This communique states that among these individuals were many bearded men who encouraged the children to increase the level of violence against the police. The police unsuccessfully called on the demonstrators to disperse.

With the fury having reached fever pitch, the police reacted by firing warning shots into the air and by making a preemptive charge, which resulted in the arrest of 25 people who will appear in court. In these clashes, which continued until 1530 [1430 GMT], nine people received bullet wounds—one of them died in the hospital—and three policemen were injured.

1 Killed, 7 Wounded in Badjarah

LD2901192192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Excerpts] An old woman was killed, seven people were wounded, and 33 people were arrested today at Badjarah, in the suburbs of the capital, following the skirmishes at about midday between groups of youth from this quarter and police forces. [passage omitted]

According to information from the scene, groups of youth tried to disrupt the farmer's market in this quarter. However, police forces which had arrived prevented them from accomplish this, but this group was able to damage the FLN's [National Liberation Front] [?Borouba] branch.

The situation returned to normal at about 1600, and these groups were dispersed.

Higher State Council Calls for Law, Order

LD2901192792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] After the incidents in Badjarah the Higher State Council issued a communique recalling its firm determination to impose respect for the state of law which remains, it says, the main line of its action. It is in this context that we learn of the arrest yesterday of two people in (Netchmiaia), in Guelma wilaya [province].

They are accused of distributing pamphlets calling for rebellions among the military, and of putting posters in places where posters are not permitted. The national gendarmerie emphasizes that the pamphlets in question come from the majlis el-choura [consultative council] of the Guelma wilaya Islamic Salvation Front.

Further on State Council Actions

LD2901202492 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] We broadcast first the statement issued today by the Higher State Council which says that the council, under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, today discussed the effects of the most recent unstable weather, which resulted in damage suffered by some regions in the country, and the carrying out of instructions given to the competent government authorities to deal with these effects as quickly as possible.

The Higher State Council also approved a draft decree defining the areas of competence of the national Consultative Council, the method of its organization, and the method of its operation. The Higher State Council also assessed the current situation in the country with regard to the maintenace of public security and order, which constitute its constant preoccupation. On this occasion the council renewed its determination to work for respecting state law, which remains the main axis of its work.

State Reportedly Takes Over Fundamentalist Mosque

NC3001100192 Paris AFP in English 0913 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, Jan 30 (AFP)—The e-Sunna Mosque in the Algerian capital, one of the bastions of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front, has been put under state control, the AL-WATAN newspaper reported on Thursday, citing authoritative sources.

It is in the Bab el-Oued district, a working-class stronghold of the FIS. This Friday's weekly prayers there were to have been led by an FIS imam.

The report said the authorities had named a new imam (prayer leader), replacing Abdelkader Moghni, 35, who won a crushing victory for the FIS in Bab el-Oued in December's first round of voting in the since cancelled general election.

Boudiaf Urges Veterans To Help End 'Impasse'

LD3001110392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] In a meeting with members of the National Secretariat of War Veterans held at the organization's headquarters yesterday, Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf said that the current stage through which the country is passing is a stage of new revival and of the exchange of ideas and mentalities. This, he added,

requires harmony between the leadership and the grass roots. Mr. Boudiaf went on to say that if such harmony is lacking, the leadership alone cannot carry out any useful action.

The chairman of the Higher State Council also said that he hoped his meeting with the members of the National Secretariat of War Veterans will constitute a new revival for Algeria because the latter now finds itself in a great impasse. This situation, he added, is similar to that existing in November 1954 [the start of the armed struggle against French occupation and a time when there were disagreements among nationalist movements].

Press Comments on Political Developments

LD2501211692 Algiers APS in English 1153 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, 25 Jan, (APS)—Political development in Algeria, the aplication of the law relating to mosques and the situation of the national press are the main themes developed in this Saturday dailies. Under the title "Dignity", LE QUOTIDIEN D'ALGERIE writes "Hardly hold out Boudiaf (president of the Higher State Committee—HCE) an open hand to everybody without exception...for reconciliation, mutual aid, and cooperation that the contemners [as received] of dead ideologies began not to suggest but demand from the HCE [words indistinct] that are only dictated by sectarian analyses." "Let's be cautious, obscurantism is frequently not where we think. The worst of obscurantists would be to see this vindictive hatred, this ideology of exclusion that, for lack of having understood what Algerians want, decided to deny it." The same daily concludes "Algeria [word indistinct] while is better, much better. And it is not question of populism to say that this people are worthy of respect, that they do not need to give proofs of maturity to parties' leaderships that do have a big a responsibility in their distress." [sentence as received]

As for EL-MOUDJAHID daily, it stresses under the title "Principle and Duty" that "the country shows one of its most difficult trials. Hence it is today, more than ever, that Algeria does need, for its salvation, much more patriotism than our exclusively partisan attachment to our attachment to the democratic values."

"The law relating to mosques," ALGER-REPUBLICAIN daily notes, "begins to be applied and it is not some resistant meetings here and there, that would arouse any impossibility to respect it." The daily carries on: "Foreseeable difficulties do not in no way put off the new power that has just recalled in a statement of Boudiaf, the emergency of the restoration of the state authority and what is less antagonist than dependent on this very authority today: the respect of fundamental liberties."

In the same vein, LE MATIN daily highlights "Strange are these worries about a party that has never hidden the fate it devotes to democracy in Algeria; strange also are these ambiguious commentaries on the power's reprisal to the FIS call to desertion and rebellion within the National People's Army." "The negatives the foreign press gives on Algeria, reached yesterday within the press circles the zenith of misinformation," it notes.

"Fragile Press"—Here is the title highlighted by AL-WATAN daily on the situation of the national press. After recalling the circumstances within which EL-KHABAR daily were arrested, AL-WATAN writes "for they are composed of intellectuals, all papers' editorial offices are supposed as it is the case of universities to benefit from immunity, which protects them from armed interventions. Apart from the state of siege or exception of course which is not the case." "This event," the daily writes, "stresses the extremely fragile aspect of a press submitted to all attacks such as those of the political parties, the height of provocation ridicule was the call of FIS to its militants not to buy certain titles." [sentence as received] Eventually, AL-WATAN recalls the judiciary framework that is both restricting and incomplete, tangled up in the technical and financial difficulties within which the national press evolutes.

Ministry Clarifies Nonattendance at Moscow Talks

LD2901143192 Rabat MAP in English 1251 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, Jan. 29 (MAP)—The Algerian foreign department denied information circulated by MAP saying that the Algerian delegation withdrew from the room of multilateral talks in Moscow. MAP bureau in Moscow affirmed that it was the Algerian ambassador to Moscow who said the Algerian delegation withdrew from the conference room to protest non-participation of Palestinians in the talks. The Yemeni delegation made the same move. The Algerian ministry pointed out Algeria was not represented at the Moscow meeting as it had decided that its participation was dependent on the Palestinian attitude vis-a-vis the talks. Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi said at the weekly press briefing Algeria did not adopt a clear cut stance vis-a-vis the talks pending the Palestinian stance.

Egypt

Diplomatic Relations Established With Latvia

NC2401141192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1313 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Stockholm, 24 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Latvia have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level effective 23 January.

A joint statement was signed by Egyptian Ambassador Ibrahim 'Allam and Latvian Ambassador to Sweden Imants Gross.

The statement noted that the two countries have decided to establish diplomatic relations with a view to developing friendship and cooperation based on respect for

each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, thereby strengthening mutual cooperation and benefits. The statement added that the two countries will be appointing nonresident ambassadors.

$300 Million World Bank Loan Agreement Signed

NC2801065492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly resumed its meetings under Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur this evening.

A number of international agreements were improved, including one whereby the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development will present Egypt with $300 million to help the economy. [passage omitted]

Report Details Rising Cost of Living

NC2401210192 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] The latest report by the Central Organization for Mobilization and Statistics reveals that the value of the Egyptian pound has dropped 25 percent compared to 1985. The report notes that prices have increased at least fourfold in the past five years. The group provided the following figures on the rising cost of living: The price of sugar increased by 433 percent, energy by 250 percent, wood by 260 percent, small broad beans [ful] by 846 percent, lentils by 467 percent, flour by 417 percent, beans [fasulya] by 388 percent, rice by 367 percent, wheat by 480 percent, transportation by 130 percent, iron by 291 percent, refrigerators by 122 percent, eggs by 165 percent, meat by 86 percent, fowl by 210 percent, white cheese by 186 percent, and margarine by 143 percent.

Press Assesses Progress in Peace Talks

Shamir Pre-Talks Remarks Criticized

NC2801100192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—The Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR today denounces the remarks that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir makes whenever the delegations prepare to begin peace negotiations. In its editorial, the paper says that his statements have recently become more arrogant and stupid, especially in the run-up to the Israeli general elections. It adds that these are sufficient to persuade humanity that a strange creature has landed on our planet after thousands of years, one ignorant of events, developments, and changes in our world.

AL-AKHBAR adds: Shamir is now asking for what he imagines belonged to his people in ancient times.

The paper continues: Preparing for the first Moscow session, it was expected that Shamir would make favorable remarks greeting those who are devoting their time to resolving the Middle East crisis, or that he would at least remain silent. Instead, he pursued his bizarre hobby of sabotage, destruction, and putting out lights. He defies any country that is thinking of stopping him from covering the occupied Arab territories with new Jewish settlements.

AL-AKHBAR concludes: U.S. President George Bush has a golden opportunity today to rid his country and the world of this curse which has lasted longer than necessary.

Land-for-Peace Concept Urged

NC2901084292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0613 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR asserts that the issues under discussion at Moscow's multilateral negotiations are of equal concern to all Middle East countries and that solving any of these issues will benefit all parties.

In its editorial today, the paper says that this is the first time such a large number of Eastern and Western countries have met to discuss vital Middle East issues. It says that all parties agree that these issues are of great strategic, economic, and security interest to the whole world.

A persistent question in the minds of many people concerns the connection between the essential and basic issue on which regional peace depends and to which priority must be given, and the issues under discussion at the Moscow conference, namely the environment, water, economic development, arms reductions, and regional security. Failure to reach just and satisfactory results on the essential issue of the occupied Arab territories will mean that all the other arrangements that the Moscow talks might make will not be implemented.

The first and second stages of the peace talks in Madrid and Washington did not achieve any significant results. Furthermore, the negotiations are expected to stop when the date for early Israeli general elections is announced. Israeli officials have said that the Moscow talks might take years.

This means that Israel will have sufficient time to continue Judaizing the occupied territories by adding new settlements that alter the demographic balance and obliterate the Arab character of the land. This will render any negotiations over them futile.

Would it not be better if the issue of exchanging land for peace found a place at the Moscow talks?

U.S., Israel Seek 'Compromise' on Loans

NC2801105592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM comments in its editorial today on the relationship between the United States and Israel, saying: It seems that the United States and Israel are feeling their way toward what are termed compromise solutions to avoid an expected clash over the demand for U.S. loan guarantees totaling $10 billion.

AL-AHRAM adds: Neither the United States nor Israel can afford a public confrontation because both face sensitive elections. Risking the Jewish vote is countered by risking U.S. support for Israel. Voices are being raised in the United States against granting the loan guarantees, on the basis that the U.S. voter is not happy about aid and expensive guarantees being given when his own economy is stagnant. There are voices in Israel urging that guarantees and loans not be accepted, and to continue building settlements. But these voices are not yet influencing public policy.

The paper goes on to say: U.S. conditions with which Washington is threatening Israel to make it stop building settlements are probably a lesson or warning. They are merely a rebuke to limit exaggerated Israeli statements, particularly those to which Shamir is resorting at the start of the election campaign. This warning could be temporary until diplomatic channels reach an understanding to overcome this crisis and which ensures that loan guarantees for Israel are not on Israel's absolute terms but rather are made in a way which underlines U.S. influence. Such an agreement would give the United States an Israeli retreat, even an ostensible one, on the settlement issue and restore the ever-deceived Arabs' hopes for the peace talks.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Arab League Head Discuss Lockerbie

LD2801105592 Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [January] 27, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid the secretary general of the Arab League.

It is important to note that the Arab League confirmed its solidarity with the Great Jamahariyah in her confrontion of the fabricated British-American allegations and had called for the creation of a joint committee of the United Nations and the Arab League to look into this issue.

In its emergency meeting held on December 5th, last year it decided to entrust the UN general secretary to follow-up this decision and consider the council in a state of permanent session to follow-up developments.

In the wake of the adoption of Security Council Resolution 731 the secretary general of the Arab League declared that the league is pre-occupied with this issue.

He will establish contacts with the Arab governments affirming that the solution to this issue will be reached by forming a legal committee composed of representatives from the UN and the Arab League.

Official Criticizes UN Resolution on Lockerbie

JN2501153692 Baghdad INA in English 1455 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 25, INA—Secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Endownment and Religious Affairs 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Mehdi Bizan said referring the dispute over the explosion of the U.S. and French airliners to the Security Council was an open attempt by the colonialist forces to strip the problem of its legal and judicial framework, to which Libya had adhered, in an effort to prepare the ground for an aggression against the Muslim people of Libya.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, the Libyan official said that the threats levelled against the Libyan people were part of the threats facing the Islamic world and the free forces all over the globe.

Mr. Bizan confirmed that Libya, which was bring exposed to a put-up campaign aimed at hushing the voices calling for freedom and Arabism, strongly denounced the unjust economic blockade imposed on the people of Iraq, pointing out that the Libyan people were the victim of a similar blockade for 12 successive years.

He called on free men all over the world to stand by Libya against any probable terrorist attack by the United States, Britain and France.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Syrian Official

LD2901220192 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Tawfiq Salha, member of the regional leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party and emissary of President Hafiz al-Asad, president of fraternal Syria.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Syrian Relations Bureau in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Iranian Delegation Departs 23 Jan

LD2401124492 Tripoli JANA in English 0810 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [January] 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mohammed 'Ali Ghribani, the member of the Iranian Shura Council, and the delegation in his company left Tripoli last night after a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to Great Jamahiriyah, Ghribani described the Security Council Resolution 731 as unjust and a [word indistinct]. He reaffirmed the support of the Islamic nation for their brothers in Great Jamahiriyah.

He reasserted the Muslims and freedom lovers' total rejection of the Security Council resolution on the American and French (?aircraft) incidents which was lacking to any legal grounds.

Mauritania

Supreme Court Rejects Losing Candidates' Petitions

AB3001102092 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1230 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] The three losing candidates in the Mauritanian presidential elections presented three petitions to the Supreme Court on large-scale fraud by the winner, President Ould Taya. After examining the petitions, the Supreme Court rejected them, and the voting process was therefore validated. Here is the reaction of Ahmed Ould Daddah, who was interviewed a few minutes ago by Ghislaine Dufond:

[Begin recording] [Daddah] I regret this decision. I thought that the court had in its possession a number of concordant facts and a number of irrefutable cases of irregularities concerning these elections, and that a decision to cancel them would be perfectly justified.

[Dufond] If we consider there to have been an irregularity range of 3 to 4 percent in either direction, that still would not in any case change the results of President Ould Taya, who won the election with over 62 percent of the votet.

[Daddah] First, I will not accept any accusations from the other side. I say that the irregularities were from only one side. These irregularities were massive and they took place in all constituencies throughout the elections.

[Dufond] But it is difficult to imagine that a difference of about 30 percent of the vote can be explained by fraud.

[Daddah] As you know, 98-99.9-percent victories are commonplace. The latter is a little more stupid, but it is the same system. [end recording]

Taya Issues Statement Following Election Victory

LD2901221292 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Statement by President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya on 29 January in Nouakchott on being reelected president of Mauritania—recorded]

[Excerpts] Following the announcement by the president of the Supreme Court that Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya has been elected president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya this evening made the following statement to the citizens:

[Taya] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Prayers on His noble prophet. I am very proud of the great confidence which you expressed in me during the presidential elections last Friday. On this occasion it gives me great pleasure to express my sincerest thanks and profound appreciation for all of those who gave me their confidence by going to the polls and casting their votes. [passage omitted]

I promise that I will act in my capacity as president of all Mauritanians according to the Constitution and according to the provisions of the law. I have great hopes that we all will overcome the atmosphere of the election campaign, the differences in views, and the overreaction, and that we will open a new chapter of amity and collective action in the interest of this homeland, which is the homeland of all Mauritanians, whose duty it is to protect it and to maintain its security and stability. [passage omitted]

Fundamentalist Governor, Supporters Flee Country

LD2801203192 Madrid TVE Internacional Television in Spanish 1930 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Things do not seem to be going very well in Mauritania.

The civil governors of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou have been dismissed from their posts.

We have learned that the civil governor of Nouadhibou, a noted fundamentalist leader in the city, has fled the country with dozens of supporters.

Morocco

King Congratulates Mauritanian President on Victory

LD2801141492 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The text of the message is as follows:

We received the news of your reelection as president of the sisterly neighboring Islamic Republic of Mauritania with great joy and satisfaction. Winning the confidence of your people for the second time is clear evidence of the love and respect they have for you due to the progress, stability, security, and peace that you have attained for them. [passage omitted]

We are certain that you will continue the march of brotherly cooperation between us and between our two brotherly and neighboring peoples and countries, and that you will multiply efforts to strengthen the links of

our Arab Maghreb and the ties of love and solidarity among its peoples so that they can achieve the unity, development, glory, and pride to which they aspire.

Your Excellency, please accept these expressions of our friendship and brotherly esteem.

[Signed] Hassan II, king of Morocco

King Hassan Receives Libya's al-Kharrubi

LD2901221492 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received at the VIP lounge at Marrakech's Menara airport, before leaving for New York, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolution Command Council in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and envoy of Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to his majesty the king.

Iran's Khonsari Meets With Filali, Royal Adviser

LD2501100692 Tehran IRNA in English 0722 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—Director General for Arab-North Africa of the Foreign Ministry Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khonsari discussed Tehran-Rabat ties in a meeting with Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali in Marrakech Friday. The latest developments in North Africa, Afghanistan and the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union were also raised.

In a separate meeting with Ahmad Ben Soudeh, special advisor to King Hassan, both sides emphasized promotion of bilateral relations. Iran and Morocco resumed diplomatic relations in December after ten years. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khonsari left Tehran for Morocco last Tuesday to take part in the Qods committee meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) chaired by King Hassan.

Confers With King Hassan, Prime Minister

LD2701114292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The director general for Middle Eastern and North African affairs of our Foreign Ministry met yesterday with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who is visiting Morocco. International and regional developments, as well as the latest Lebanese situation, were reviewed during the meeting.

The Lebanese foreign minister, referring to the occupation of part of his country's territory by the Zionist regime and the frequent acts of aggression by that regime, praised the heroic resistance of the Muslim Lebanese people, which he described as the legal right of that country's people.

At the end of the meeting the Foreign Ministry director general for Middle Eastern and North African affairs praised the Islamic resistance of the Lebanese people, especially in the south and in western villages, against the brutal aggression of the Zionist regime. He emphasized the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their legitimate struggles.

The director general for Middle Eastern and North African affairs, who is in Morocco at the head of a delegation to the 14th session of the Jerusalem Committee, also met with King Hassan of Morocco yesterday. He conveyed the greetings of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to him.

During the meeting, which took place in the Moroccan capital of Rabat, ways of further strengthening and expanding ties and mutual cooperation, international and regional issues, and the current developments in North Africa were discussed. According to a report, during the meeting, the director general for Middle Eastern and North African affairs described the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand in the political, economic, and cultural fields and declared Iran's readiness to expand mutual cooperation.

He also met and conferred with Moroccan Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki. According to a report by the central news unit, at the meeting Azzedine Laraki emphasized Morocco's readiness to expand and strengthen ties between the two Muslim countries and suggested that a joint commission be set up for economic, commercial, and cultural cooperation between them.

IRNA: Unrest in South, Troops Sent to al-Kut

LD2901194892 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—Iraq's Baathist regime has deployed troops around the city of al-Kut after indications of unrest in southern Iraq, said the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) today.

SAIRI, citing its sources inside Iraq, added that a complete brigade of the Republican Guards was moved to take position in Badrah region, 80 kms east of al-Kut, in anticipation of the first anniversary of last March's popular uprising which was brutally put down by the regime which killed hundreds of thousands of civilians and drove over 1.5 million other Iraqis into refuge in neighbouring Iran and Turkey.

The sources also reported that Saddam Husayn has deployed further troops around the military and security centres in al-Basrah after the escalation of anti-regime operations in the southern city.

Recently popular forces inflicted heavy defeats on the Republican Guards in al-Basrah's Sileen [place-name as received] and al-Masab marshlands. Further up, al-Nasiriyah was also the scene of a successful counter-attack by popular forces in responsive to several days of intensive bombing by the Baathist regime.

Meanwhile, a fresh group of Arabs fleeing Iraq told the SAIRI information center that Saddam Husayn is continuing with the destruction of houses and shops around the badly pillaged two holy shrines of Imam Husayn (PBUH) [peace be upon him] and Hadhrat 'Abbas (PBUH) in Karbala.

Karbala, along with the other holy city of al-Najaf suffered large-scale massacres and destruction at the hands of the Republican Guards during last year's popular uprising.

In al-Najaf, the Baathist forces had desecrated and looted the shrine of Imam 'Ali bin Abi Talib (PBUH) which among other things housed rare manuscripts and precious offerings made over the last millenium by world Muslims.

Al-Zubaydi Says 84 Percent of War Damage Repaired

JN2901170192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has said that Iraq, depending on its intrinsic potential and its available resources and through the creative efforts of its righteous sons, has managed to score an immense accomplishment represented by the rebuilding of 84 percent of what was destroyed by the brutal 30-state aggression and sabotaged by sinful hands durign the chapter of treachery and treason.

During a meeting today with a delegation representing the Professional Associations Complex from the Jordanian city of Irbid and led by Isma'il al-Sa'di, the prime minister affirmed that Iraq's principled positions on national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian issues are based on the constant course of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi reviewed the magnitude, nature, and dimensions of the treacherous 30-state aggression to which Iraq was subjected. He also reviewed the destruction and damage caused by this aggression, noting in this regard the greatness of the Iraqi individual and what he has accomplished in his greater jihad in the fields of building and reconstruction by way of persistent field work and the prioritization of work to build a solid foundation for the new Iraq.

The prime minister paid tribute to the honorable stand taken by fraternal Jordan when Iraq confronted the hateful U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression. He emphasized that the Mother of Battles has demonstrated effective Iraqi action at work, as well as the ability to show creativity and innovation and to accomplish tasks in short periods of time to attain high achievements along the path of rebuilding and reconstructing great Iraq.

As for the head of the fraternal Jordanian delegation, he affirmed that the Jordanian popular and trade union organizations condemn the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq. He added that world and humanitarian organizations shoulder a responsibility toward breaking this blockade and securing food, medicine, and milk for the Iraqi people and children.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Tahir al-Hayali, president of the Agricultural Engineers Association, and Khalid Salih al-Rawi, chief secretary of the Council of Ministers.

Further on Reconstruction Successes

JN2901171592 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 29, INA—Technical cadres at al-Harithah thermo-electric power station have completed the reconstruction of the 4th unit of the station with its departments in preparation for its operation at a capacity of 200 mega watts.

In a statement published by AL-JUMHURIYAH daily today, director of the station Eng. [engineer] Makki Muhammad Husayn said that the station had been targeted in 13 air raids and missile attacks during which 7 workers were killed and more than 20 others injured.

He added that the station's technical teams managed, with the help of al-Faw state-establishment, to reconstruct the station in a record 270 days, less than the scheduled 1080 days.

Mr. Husayn further said that during this stage of reconstruction, the destroyed storage tanks were rebuilt and some turbines were re-operated.

The director general made it clear that though [word indistinct] was prevented from importing spare parts because of the economic sanctions, the Iraqi experts succeeded in manufacturing alternative spare parts of world specifications.

In the course of the reconstruction process, the southern al-Muthanna cement factory was reconstructed and would start a monthly production capacity of 70 thousands tonnes. The total cost of the losses inflicted by the enemy air bombardment of the factory during the aggression on Iraq was estimated at five million dinars.

The factory director said that the reconstruction drive cost two million dinars and covered the re-operation of the factory's first production line and operating the raw materials [words indistinct].

in the field of education, the minister of education said that 2,611 educational establishments and schools were reconstructed out of the total 3,934 educational buildings damaged or destroyed during the 30 states aggression and the acts of sabotage that had entailed the aggression.

The minister said that 655 educational establishments and schools were completely or partially destroyed which made it impossible to benefit from them.

The minister added that factories of his ministry and that of the Interior Ministry managed to manufacture more than two million desks and hundreds of blackboards and chairs to replace damaged ones.

Minister Says Health Conditions Deteriorating

JN2801185592 Baghdad INA in English 1810 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 28, INA—Iraqi Health Minister Umid Midhat Mubarak stressed deterioration of the health conditions in Iraq as a result to the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq and the ongoing economic sanctions.

Speaking in the course of a meeting with a UNICEF delegation here today, the minister said Iraq seriously suffers from acute shortage of medicines, medical equipment, anaesthetics, vaccines and communicative diseases [as received] that led to a serious increase in children mortality from six to ten percent against years before the aggression.

The minister also referred to the spread of typhoid, polio and malnutrition among people especially children and urged UNICEF to work for lifting the economic sanctions and releasing Iraqi frozen assets at foreign banks.

The health minister said that Iraq had not received any shipment of medicine which it had contracted for with foreign companies and paid them their full prices since the 2nd of August 1990.

The minister discussed with the UNICEF delegation the program of future health cooperation between the Iraqi ministry and the U.N. organization.

The visiting UNICEF delegation is headed by assistant executive director for operations affairs.

Ghali Informed of Continued Airspace Violations

JN2801154392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1418 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] New York, 28 Jan (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations that warplanes continue to violate Iraqi airspace for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

In a memorandum to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali concerning this, Iraq's permanent UN representative affirmed that the U.S. warplanes carried out 185 air sorties in the period 18-25 January.

The memorandum explains that the U.S. warplanes mainly overflew Mosul, Zakho, Dahuk, Irbil, Tall 'Afar, al-'Amadiyah, Rawandoz, 'Ayn Zalah, Sinjar, and Dukan in various formations and at different speeds and altitudes.

The memorandum indicates that during the same period U.S. aircraft carried out four sorties over al-Faruq airport in various formations and at different speeds and altitudes.

UN Envoy Meets With Security Council Members

JN2801192392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] United Nations, 28 Jan (INA)—Iraq's Permanent UN Representative 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari has explained in detail to the nonaligned UN Security Council member states what Iraq has done to implement UN Security Council resolutions.

This came during a meeting here yesterday between the Iraqi representative and the ambassadors of the nonaligned UN Security Council member states. The meeting was made up of the ambassadors of Morocco, India, Ecuador, Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, and Venezuela.

Al-Anbari informed an INA correspondent in New York that during his meeting with the nonaligned ambassadors he reviewed in detail Iraq's coordination and cooperation measures with the UN special committee and the implementation of the measures stipulated by the cease-fire Resolution 687. Al-Anbari said that his remarks were based on Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn's letter in this regard to the UN Security Council head and members.

The nonaligned UN Security Council ambassadors expressed appreciation for what Iraq has done in this regard. They emphasized the conviction that it is necessary to hold an earnest debate which aims at alleviating the burdens of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq and its people.

Levi Announces Ties Established With India

TA2901162392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Excerpt] India and Israel have established full diplomatic relations. Foreign Minister David Levi announced this in Moscow, while Indian Foreign Secretary Dixit made the announcement in New Delhi. This was reported by our correspondent in Moscow Arye Golan. [passage omitted]

Levi Says 'Common Sense' Prevailed

TA3001064192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan in Moscow on 29 January—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, how did it suddenly happen that India is willing to establish diplomatic relations with Israel?

[Levi] I believe that in this case, common sense prevailed. They chose to avoid making this an issue or to wait for further clarifications, and I am very pleased with the Indian Government's decision. The whole Israeli nation is certainly happy about this additional achievement of Israeli diplomacy.

[Golan] Certainly. When will the agreement on relations be signed, and when will embassies in New Delhi and Tel Aviv be opened?

[Levi] The announcement on behalf of both governments was made today. The technical coordination and arrangements will be made in the next few days. I hope that it will happen within the next few weeks.

[Golan] Are you planning a trip to India soon?

[Levi] No trip is currently being discussed. Any event of this nature certainly opens new horizons and channels for cooperation, understanding, and dialogue. Most certainly, this goal is important, and it was reached.

Minister Reacts to U.S. Loan Conditions

TA3001061492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Report by Yo'el Nir]

[Text] A senior minister expressed his concern yesterday over the fact that the United States is willing to change the Palestinian representation. It may be accidental, he said, but it is possible that there is a link between this readiness and the agreement in principle to give us the loan guarantees. We will have to look into the matter, the minister said.

At the same time, it has become apparent that the feeling that prevailed several days ago that the U.S. conditions for the guarantees are very easy is wrong. For example, it is not clear whether the number of housing starts is 8,000 or 9,000. Nevertheless, the U.S. condition that if Israel exceeds the agreed quantity the Americans will stop the aid for immigrant absorption is very clear. Israel has asked that this condition be eased.

Questions have been raised regarding another condition. This one refers to raising the risk interest from 3 to 8 percent. Jerusalem says that this level of interest is too high and that it could make the guarantees not worthwhile. Washington will be asked, therefore, to ease this condition as well.

Israel could live with two other conditions: selling government-owned companies, and opening its capital market. Jerusalem says that although no agreement has been reached, there is a basis for a dialogue.

In addition, an internal debate is under way here on a matter of principle. Some ministers claim that 9,000 housing units is more than we have built in five years in the territories; the construction drive, the ministers say, will not be stopped. Other ministers say that the people in Israel will not understand our agreement to freeze settlement, even for a definite period of time. Naturally, there are ministers who view the U.S. conditions as affecting our sovereignty.

In any event, at this stage, the contacts with the United States will continue. Ambassador Shoval will be in Israel over the weekend, and the consultations will gain momentum.

U.S. Housing Halt Request Not Being Considered

TA3001114892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon says the Israeli Government is not considering the American proposal to halt new construction of housing in the territories in exchange for American approval of the loan guarantees. Speaking to reporters after addressing a delegation of Israel Bonds, Sharon said many more housing units are under construction in the territories than the 9,000 mentioned by the Americans. This report from Dani Gur-Arye:

Housing Minister Sharon is not concerned about reports that Israel is about to accept the American conditions on the loan guarantees. Sharon told reporters today that Prime Minister Shamir and the rest of the government are determined to continue construction in the territories.

[Begin Sharon recording] Prime Minister Shamir made it already very clear that Israel is not accepting any conditions. I think what is important are the facts, and as far as I know—being a member of the government—I do not

know of any changes in the Israeli Government's decisions on construction all over the Land of Israel, with those priorities that the government decides upon. [end recording]

Details of the American compromise were widely reported following U.S. Secretary of State Baker's meeting last week with Israel's ambassador in Washington, Zalman Shoval. The proposal calls for Israel to complete construction on the 9,000 housing units under way in the territories and to halt new construction, but Sharon said that Israel began construction last year on many more than 9,000 housing units—closer to 13,500. In addition, he said, construction is under way on housing that was started in previous years. [passage omitted]

Responding to delegates' questions, Sharon did some political lobbying on his own behalf, and on behalf of the Likud. He said he is challenging Shamir because the peace process represents a crucial period in Israel's history. I am one of the few people who know how to talk with the Arabs, Sharon said, one of the few people who can make peace with them.

Sharon Reacts to New U.S. Committee on Refugees

TA2801174092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon has said that the United States once again surprised Israel, as it has been doing in the past year, when it decided to set up a committee to deal with the question of the refugees as part of a deal with the Palestinians that would enable them to participate in the Moscow talks. Nevertheless, Sharon emphasized, even if peace treaties are signed, there will be no peace in the region as long as the refugee camps in the Middle East remain an open sore. In his opinion, the participation of countries in the negotiations should be made conditional on their agreement to solve the problem of the Palestinian refugees in their own territory. Minister Sharon was speaking to Nisim Qeynan, our correspondent in the south, during a visit to Dimona.

Likud, Labor Agree To Hold Elections in June

TA2901145692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Report by Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[Text] At the end of a meeting with Labor Knesset Members [MK's] Hayim Ramon and Mikha Harish, Likud MK Sara Doron announced that the Knesset elections would be held on 23 June. Although the date still must be approved by the Labor Bureau, this is almost certain to be the date of the elections.

[Begin Doron recording] After consulting for one hour with our coalition partners and after discussing the matter with Labor, the date emerging for the early elections is 23 June 1992, and I am sure the Likud will win. [end recording]

The date was a compromise between Labor's demand to hold elections at the beginning of June and the Likud's demand to hold them in mid-July. The compromise was reached after MK Doron consulted by phone with the prime minister. The latter opted for an agreement with the Labor faction, rather than risk losing a vote on the matter in the Knesset plenum.

No Intervention Planned in Treatment of Habash

TA3001124092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Excerpts] There is mounting criticism in France over terrorist boss George Habash's hospitalization in Paris. [passage omitted]

In Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Habash's notorious role in world terror is well known; however, Israel will not intervene in the humanitarian considerations of the French Government.

Acting Foreign Minister on al-Shar's Remarks

Defends Participation in Talks

JN2901123992 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1207 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Labor Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stressed that the discrepancy between the positions of Jordan and Syria concerning attendance of the multilateral negotiations does not mean contradiction between the two countries' policies toward the peace process. In statements to journalists, al-Kabariti said different opinions within what he termed as a single team is a healthy phenomenon if things are viewed in good faith.

The labor minister was speaking in his capacity as acting foreign minister; Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir is currently in Moscow. Al-Kabariti was reacting to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who implicitly criticized Jordan for sending a delegation to Moscow. Al-Kabariti said his country is committed to reaching a just and comprehensive peace. This, he said, is the reason Jordan has accepted Resolution 242 since the 1967 war, participated in the Geneva negotiations in 1973, and boycotted the Camp David agreement and what he called the Hafar-al-Batin alliance, a reference to the Arab countries that joined this alliance, including Syria.

Sees Differences as 'Healthy'

JN3001121792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30-31 Jan 92 p 1

[By Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordan said Wednesday its decision to participate in the multilateral talks despite the absence of Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon is another manifestation of its commitment to efforts to bring just and comprehensive peace to the region.

"Our commitment to a comprehensive and just peace based on principles of international legitimacy is firm," Labour and Acting Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti told the Jordan Times.

Commenting on a statement issued Tuesday by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', in which he indirectly criticised Jordan's participation in the multilateral talks, Mr. al-Kabariti said: "The departure of Jordan's stand from that of Syria truly does not constitute a point that could be interpreted as a contradiction in policies between the two countries."

"If one looks at matters with good intentions, then I believe we are one team and that differences among any team is a healthy matter," he added.

Mr. al-Shar', addressing a Syrian cabinet meeting Tuesday, had contended that the absence of Syria, Lebanon and Palestinians from the multilateral talks would reduce the Arab losses.

A Syrian official quoted Mr. al-Shar' as telling the cabinet that the Moscow talks would harm Arabs and only benefit Israel. He was also quoted as noting that only one Arab country was enthusiastic about the Moscow talks. He did not name the country, but reports quoted diplomats as saying that he meant Jordan.

Mr. al-Kabariti said that coordination on Middle East peace talks was still possible in spite of differences. "If coordination were to take place, despite differences, then it is possible that this coordination would benefit the Arab negotiator," Mr. al-Kabariti said.

Rejection of Palestinians in Talks 'Big Setback'

JN2901084392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Hope for Day Two"]

[Text] While it is still premature to judge the Moscow multilateral peace talks one way or another in view of the fact that the first day was largely ceremonial and rhetorical, there is nevertheless no escape from the conclusion that the absence of Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians from the conference will dampen any initial expectations that the gathering is off to a good start. The Syrian boycott of the 40-nation meeting was rather expected because of Damascus' long-held views that progress in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations must precede the discussion of regional issues. But the refusal to accommodate the Palestinian delegation and give it an opportunity to speak out on regional concerns was something that cannot be described except as a big setback. After all, the Palestinian decision to participate in the Moscow peace parley was not taken lightly or without great misgivings. To reward the Palestinian side for its wise and enlightened verdict in favour of the Moscow forum by splitting hairs once again on where the members of the Palestinian team come from and at the end refusing them entry because of that is a step backward.

As for the contents of the discourses offered by most of the non-Arab participants, one also notices that they were indeed long on the virtues of peace, on which we all agree, but short on emphasis of the root causes of the conflict in the Middle East, the core of which is of course the Palestinian problem. To hear one distinguished speaker after the other list the benefits of regional peace and cooperation without directly and explicitly linking that lofty ideal to the need for Israeli withdrawal was disappointment, to say the least. In this context, it was no surprise to see the Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy skip completely the reference to U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as sine qua non for regional harmony and development. But to hear other speakers echoing similar sentiments in complete isolation from the heart of the matter in the Middle East

could only lend weight to the rationale of those parties which decided to stay away from the Moscow conference, including the U.N., and also undermine the conviction of the Arab countries that have opted to give its deliberations the benefit of the doubt.

As the foreign minister, Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, summed up the situation in his speech yesterday, there is no way to realise regional cooperation which we all want without addressing effectively the Palestinian problem. It is one thing to deal with the two sets of issues concurrently or in parallel, which Jordan accepts, and quite another to divorce them from one another, as seems the case till now in the Russian capital.

Another unholy separation also appeared on Day One of the meeting when one speaker after the other made faint or no reference at all to Israel's massive nuclear capability as a source of instability and as a subject worthy of regional disarmament negotiations. Clearly there is no way that serious efforts to rid the area of mass destruction weapons can come to fruition without the inclusion of Israel's nuclear and thermonuclear arsenals in the package deal being contemplated for the Middle East. The nations of the region look for an enlightend sense of security and stability based on multilateral disarmament, balanced development based on reducing the gap between the haves and the have-nots and pluralistic democracy to assure long term domestic peace and stability.

Maybe Day Two of the Moscow multilateral conference will be more fruitful and productive than the first. We are not in too much hurry to see results in one day, but we are eager to see the talks proceed on the right course, right away.

Surgeon Removes Ganglion From King's Knee

JN2901203392 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] His majesty the king was admitted to hospital this evening where he underwent a minor operation on his right leg. Our reporter Maha al-Sha'ir spoke to his majesty and his physician [Dr. Samir Farraj] half an hour ago after his majesty's operation:

[Begin recording] [al-Sha'ir] Praise be to God for your safety. [preceding phrase in Arabic] Your Majesty, people were very worried about you. How do you feel now?

[Husayn] I feel perfectly all right today. I watched the surgery on the video monitor, and everything was perfectly all right. It is a thing I had to do. It started about several months ago, and they were observing it and thought they might as well remove it. But, it is just behind my knee, and so this was the only reason why I thought I better have somebody explain that I have to stay a little while here before being able to walk normally and leave. So, I will probably leave tomorrow, and the latest after tomorrow. Everything is fine and perfect.

[al-Sha'ir] We're sorry to bother you, Your Majesty.

[Husayn] No bothering, thank you so very, very much indeed to all your kindness and all the best to all the members of our Jordanian family [words indistinct] appreciation and total devotion.

[al-Sha'ir, in Arabic] Praise be to God for your safety.

[Husayn, in Arabic] God bless you.

[al-Sha'ir] Doctor, can you tell us how is his majesty now?

[Dr. Farraj] His majesty now is fine. We have just finished the operation. There was a lump behind the right knee, which was removed under local anesthetic, and after examination it was found to be a ganglion, which is a completely benign lesion. His majesty now is in good shape; he is in his room, and everything is over. [end recording]

Islamic Resistance Attacks Israeli Position

NC2901081292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] The Islamic Resistance mujahidin succeeded in destroying the 'Alman position where Israeli occupation forces and agents were stationed yesterday afternoon and from where they began bombarding our defenseless people at noon. The Islamic Resistance fighters attacked and hit the position with various types of weapons. An ammunition depot and a piece of artillery were destroyed. One artillery crew member was killed and four others were injured, including agent Muhammad Shakir.

Birri Discusses Situation in South, Moscow Talks

NC2501104892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0613 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Interview with Minister of State Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. Minister, let us start by talking about the deteriorating situation in the south, especially as the Amal Movement issued a statement yesterday and published today that called on the government to assume its responsibility and, as Minister Birri was the first to point out, that notes Israel is annexing Rshaf. What is your view? What can you tell us about the situation in the south?

[Birri] It goes without saying that Lebanon has Resolution 425 in its favor. It has a ruling from the highest international authority [UN Security Council] that is not subject to negotiation. Its task is implementation. When the cabinet discussed it, we announced that we oppose Lebanon's participation in the international peace conference, because we fear that the south—the only Arab arena open to Israel—might suffer under a no peace, no war situation. The same thing happened when the Camp David Accord was signed. It precipitated Lebanon's destruction when the south was invaded. We fear that Lebanon cannot be patient while the international conference takes place if the peace march proceeds as it is. I do not believe the process will continue. That is the way things are moving. Israel will try to play the south against Syria and Lebanon, applying tactical and strategic pressure. Israel wants to apply tactical pressure to divide Lebanese and Syrian stances and tear apart the Arab position. It wants to apply strategic pressure to secure a peace treaty that would at least include a security agreement and one on water resources. It wants a treaty similar or equal to the 17 May 1983 accord [signed by Israel and Lebanon but later annulled].

While we were waiting for the Lebanese Army and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] to enter the security strip, Israel moved and annexed Rshaf. It has closed the only road between Rshaf and the free areas, the Haddathah-Rshaf road. It has erected barbed wire round the town. After I announced two days ago that the town had been annexed, the road was mined and another opened across the hills to Bayt Yahun. Rshaf is now linked to the security strip. Israel is currently blockading Haddathah in the same way it did Rshaf. We hear that Israel intends to annex Haddathah and other towns which I do not want to identify in case it arouses fears and increases the current exodus. There are 120 people currently in Rshaf. The displacement of citizens in the south has begun, and we remember that it was in the south where the events of 1975 started.

Two days before the recent cabinet session, I warned Prime Minister Rashid Karami about this when we met at Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni's house. Prime Minister Karami contacted the United Nations and foreign ambassadors, and we asked for a Security Council meeting. A U.S. veto is feared. So what? The issue now is not merely retaliation against resistance operations; it is much more serious. It marks the start of a process to swallow Lebanon. The creeping annexation aims to undermine the internal situation. This is a clear message to Lebanon to separate its position from those of the Arabs, Syria's in particular. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Minister, we heard yesterday that UNIFIL units, specifically Ghanaian, have started to withdraw from southern villages ready for the Lebanese Army's deployment.

[Birri] Credit for this is given to our stance and to that of the people in Tayr Dibbah and the sit-in they staged. They refused to let the Army leave. The Army command took an honorable position, refusing to resist its people or fire on them to withdraw from Tayr Dibbah. There were secret contacts on deploying the Army in a small area of no more than seven villages in the Tyre region. Rshaf is 20 km from Tyre. The Lebanese Army has restored its unity, its command is trusted, and it has become the army of all Lebanon. All brigades have been redeployed without problems. There are thousands of Lebanese soldiers under one command in the south. The government's first duty was to seek to open the way to control all the liberated areas, and then Israel would realize that the Lebanese Army wanted to reach all its international borders. Right now, we are seeking ways to enter the liberated area. The security strip issue seems to be a thing of the past. Now that we have joined the international conference, Resolution 425 is being linked to regional problems. That was what I feared most.

[Correspondent] If the Army deploys in the villages UNIFIL is vacating, and, as you just said, Rshaf is not far from where the army will be deployed, will there be a confrontation between Israel and the Army? Is that possible?

[Birri] Let Israel confront the Lebanese Army and try to seize a town from it. The Army will defend its territories.

and the political, diplomatic, and military situation will change. No one should believe that the Lebanese Army is weak.

[Correspondent] So, you view positively Army deployment when Israel is blockading Rshaf?

[Birri] Of course. The Lebanese Army must reach whatever point it can. It will deploy in seven villages in the Tyre region far from the Bint Jubayl district. Rshaf is almost the last town between liberated Lebanon and the security strip, and the Army must travel far to reach the Rshaf area, around 20 km. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Let us talk about the peace negotiations in light of the semi-unanimous Arab consensus on non-attendance. We all know your position because before Madrid you warned against Lebanon's participating, did you not?

[Birri] [passage omitted] I believe that Lebanese officials are now in a dilemma, one in which Lebanon should not have been involved in the first place. The country has become involved in a maze; is dos not need this. The excuse for entering negotiations was that even if we are outside the process, the solution would be at our expense. Lebanese officials gave weak excuses that did not consider the future. There was no vision. Most amazing is that we hear the Israelis told us they have no designs on our territories or water. Is this not what the delegation said?

They say they have no designs on our territories when they occupy half of the south and another 7 square km, and yesterday they took Rshaf. They say they have no designs on our water when we know that the al-Hasbani, al-Wazzani, and 'Ayn al-Dardarah Rivers. [sentence as heard] We know that the al-Wazzani passes through 20 km of Lebanese territory where no Lebanese can install a single water pump. They are continuing to take the water. Reports today note excavations, and they say they have no designs. I want to know what Lebanon has done. New territories were seized even before the Lebanese delegation returned from Washington. What has been done? Where is the pressure? How have we benefited? What progress will be made?

This is only part of what will be covered during the Moscow talks. The issue is not the Moscow talks, but a principle; namely, that Lebanon is tot concerned with the international conference. Lebanon has a resolution in its favor which must be implemented.

[Correspondent] But Minister, there might not be a simple solution, although the road could be prepared for one. If we do not attend the peace conference, will the situation remain as it is?

[Birri] You remember that when the Israelis found themselves in a tight corner during the Camp David talks, they went to the polls. They are now threatening to hold elections, which would be followed by those in the United States. I do not agree that in the wake of the Gulf war the United States has abandoned Israel as the region's policeman. The new security order is an economic one. Following the Soviet Union's collapse and attempts to split Yugoslavia, the rich countries will break up and clash with each other. The future economic battle lies in competition between Europe, represented by Germany, Japan, and the United States. Europe depends on the Middle East, therefore the security of the new economic order must be protected. I believe that Israel is seizing the best opportunity to achieve its peace in the region. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Why has there been no foreign aid despite many promises? Is one of reason the state's inability to prove its credibility in many areas?

[Birri] Rshaf's annexation and the non-delivery of aid are two sides of the same coin: pressure on Lebanon. This is the result of the mess we are in.

[Correspondent] What about the media?

[Birri] The media must be as the people want it. According to my information, a meeting in the information minister's office in the next two days will draw up a law protecting freedom of the press. The cabinet's decision is no longer valid.

[Correspondent] It isn't effective?

[Birri] I do not think so. Anyhow, so far it has not been discussed with us. We will state ours view when it is.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Minister.

[Birri] Thank you.

Al-Husayni Meets With Shammas, Russian Ambassador

NC2801194692 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] This morning, Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the Washington peace talks, visited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni to discuss his view of events in Washington, especially as the last round of talks was not at all easy. It was a very difficult situation, Shammas said. He was talking about the situation in view of the Moscow talks which started today.

Speaker al-Husayni also met with Russian Ambassador Ilichev to review the multilateral Moscow talks, especially the preparatory meetings held today. The ambassador believes that parliamentary cooperation between Lebanon and Russia could strengthen the existing traditional relations. Ilichev said he invited al-Husayni to visit Russia, adding that he will convey to the Russian parliament speaker an invitation from al-Husayni to visit Lebanon.

Hizballah Statement Assails Multilateral Talks

NC2801093392 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Hizballah has released a statement on the multilateral conference scheduled to convene in Moscow. It says that the Arab leaders are not happy about humiliating their peoples under the slogan of peace and coexistence with the Zionist enemies, who can never become friends because they hate basic values, historical facts, and human norms. The symbols of Arab decline—kings, princes, and rulers—are not happy about their shameful deeds and capitulation ever since they accepted the principle of humiliating negotiations with the enemy.

In Madrid, the usurping entity's leaders met the Arab delegations with contempt and humiliation, and in Washington, the enemy scoffed, demonstrating its disdain by refusing to accept the Arab regimes' concessions. [passage omitted]

The Hizballah statement also says that the Moscow conference will only discuss what has been declared: sharing resources and providing the usurper with water and energy. One cannot rule out the possibility that the Arab delegations to the Moscow talks may conclude bilateral agreements with the Zionist enemy over oil, other resources, arms, and reducing Arab countries' military arsenals while allowing the enemy to retain its weapons on the pretext that its security requires a good stock of weapons.

The statement points out that the Moscow conference will enable the Zionist entity to become part of the region's Arab and Islamic body. The negotiators of Arab renunciation will concede the last remains of dignity. [passage omitted]

The statement stresses the following:

1. We reiterate that we condemn and denounce the principle of negotiation and stress that the usurper only understands the use of force—historically, a rebellious people's only language and one that will liberate the land and regain dignity.

2. We view the Arab leaders' agreeing to participate in the Moscow conference as serious, with grave consequences. We demand that participants reconsider their position and refrain from committing this crime against the central cause, before angry peoples crush them.

3. The Moscow conference result does not concern the Arab and Islamic peoples, who will not accept the principle of normalizing relations with the usurper. The Zionist delegation went to Moscow to have the Arabs sign documents giving it a share of our Islamic nation's resources. Reading them shows that minimum Arab conditions have evaporated. The defeatist Arabs have only to pay homage to the Zionists. We emphasize that the conference result will be binding only for those rulers following in Anwar al-Sadat's footsteps.

4. We call on the Arab and Islamic peoples to shoulder their historic responsibility, stand up to the renunciation, and raise their voices against this humiliating sellout.

5. We stress that resistance and jihad are the proper responses to safeguard our sanctity and principles. We call for this stance to be spread among the youth, to tell them right from wrong.

Camps, Hizballah Stage Anti-Talks Strike

NC2901055092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] PLO groups staged a strike in the south today to protest the multilateral peace talks. Demonstrators marched in the streets of 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, set tires on fire, and blocked roads leading to the camp.

Hizballah organized a sit-in at the Imam al-Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd at midday today to protest the multilateral talks. Similar sit-ins were held in Imam 'Ali Mosque in Ba'labakk and Kafr Kila Mosque in the south.

March in 'Ayn al-Hilwah

NC2901133692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Protesting the Moscow negotiations, the Palestinian factions, district committees, and national figures in 'Ayn al-Hilwah camp today organized a general strike. Shops closed down and classes were suspended. A popular march proceeded through the streets of the camp during which demonstrators shouted slogans demanding that the PLO adhere to the Palestinian national group decision and not participate in the current peace negotiations.

Al-Shar' Calls Cabinet Meeting, Views Talks

JN2801172692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Today at 1100 the cabinet held a meeting under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. This meeting was confined to reviewing the latest political developments in the Arab and international arenas, the foremost one being the peace process and its results in light of Israeli's intransigence, in addition to the multilateral negotiations currently being held in Moscow and their possible effect on Arabs' rights and principal interests.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' explained that Israel deliberately stopped the bilateral peace talks in Washington and did not permit them to achieve substantial and tangible results, thereby evading the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, on the basis of which the peace conference was held.

The foreign minister also said: Every free Arab citizen can easily realize that at a time when Israel refused to implement these two resolutions because they oblige it to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, it showed great interest in and enthusiasm for the multilateral negotiations, and it prepared the pertinent files and plans in order to make new gains at the expense of the Arab countries.

Al-Shar' emphasized that Syria's decision not to take part in the multilateral talks was based on these realistic standpoints, and on the principled conviction that discussing issues of regional cooperation between Arab states and Israel before achieving an Israeli withdrawal is nothing but an attempt to appease the aggressor and reward him for his aggression and occupation. The foreign minister added: This Syrian position is in fact comes out of Syria's concern to protect Arab rights and interests. It was clearly expressed by President Hafiz al-Asad during his meetings with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Based on this, the invitations to the Arab parties to participate in the multilateral negotiations were not obligatory. It was left up to those who would like to attend.

The foreign minister emphasized that the Madrid conference, which has not yet concluded its work, is the conference that can establish a genuine peace in the region after returning the occupied Arab land to its legitimate owners and after guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, especially as its agenda is clear in the letters of invitation and assurances to the Arab parties. As for the claim that the multilateral conference is the international conference for which the Arabs have always called, an examination of its agenda, which is full of Israeli gains, discredits this claim.

The foreign minister explained that the Arab foreign ministers meeting held in Marrakech last week showed that only one Arab country was enthusiastic about going to the multilateral talks in Moscow.

Al-Shar' concluded his political presentation by saying: At any rate, the nonparticipation of Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians—the parties directly concerned with having their occupied land restored—is surely decreasing the magnitude of the losses on the Arab side, and is refocusing international efforts on the implementation of UN resolutions, on the basis of which the peace conference was held in Madrid.

Al-Shar' Statement on UN Summit, Moscow Talks

JN2501083092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Marrakech—The Arab foreign ministers concluded the meeting they held in Marrakech yesterday at Syria's request to discuss a host of important issues, primarily the situation in Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories, as well as developments in the peace process.

At the conclusion of this meeting, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made statements to reporters affirming Syria's position on the multilateral talks, scheduled to be held in Moscow later this month. Al-Shar' asserted that participation in these talks will gravely harm the Arab states.

The Arab foreign ministers' meeting was chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco, who opened the meeting with a speech in which he thanked the Arab delegations and affirmed the importance of the deliberations and discussions that would be held during this meeting.

At the outset of the meeting, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' explained the major ideas contained in a Syrian working paper on the agenda of the Security Council members' summit, scheduled to be held in New York on 31 January. Faruq al-Shar' also affirmed the importance of securing a unified Arab position that can be communicated by the Moroccan monarch on behalf of all Arab states to the Security Council summit, especially as Morocco is the country that currently represents the Arab states on the Security Council. The Syrian ideas were unanimously adopted after they were extensively discussed by some Arab ministers and after some clarifications were made. King Hassan II promised to communicate the Arab position to the leaders attending the Security Council summit.

The ministers then discussed the multilateral talks due to be held in Moscow and their serious repercussions on the peace process and on the region. The Syrian and Lebanese foreign ministers, as well as the head of the PLO Political Department, spoke during the meeting. They explained that the Washington bilateral peace talks have been stalled and deadlocked and that no progress whatsoever has been made in these talks, thanks to Israeli intransigence. They cautioned that the convening of multilateral talks, before substantial and tangible progress is made at the bilateral level, will have negative and serious repercussions on the peace process and the region.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid spoke and recalled a resolution the Arab League Council adopted at its last session that stressed the need for the Arab states to show solidarity with the Arab sides directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question.

At the end of the meeting, the Moroccan monarch delivered a speech, affirming the importance of the aforementioned Arab League resolution. Moreover, he expressed the conviction that the Arab states must support and show solidarity with the positions adopted by the Arab parties directly affected by the conflict.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and his delegation, returned to Damascus at dawn today after participating in the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee and the meeting of Arab foreign ministers in the Moroccan city of Marrakech.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. During the meeting, they exchanged views and held consultations on the topics listed on the agenda of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting and which will be discussed during the Security Council member's summit, due to be held on 31 January.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz spoke to reporters at the end of the meeting, affirming that Israel has continued to prevaricate, procrastinate, and to be intransigent. Referring to the outcome of the talks held in Madrid and Washington, Buwayz said that nothing drastic regarding the peace process has taken place, thanks to the intransigent Israeli stand.

'Sources' Pleased With PLO Decision on Talks

JN2801181892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] In Damascus, the George Habash-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has called for a pause to reexamine things and to abandon illusions and stop chasing after U.S. concepts. The PFLP hailed the Palestinian decision not to attend the Moscow conference and described it as an ill-omened conference. The PFLP called for strengthening coordination and cooperation with Syria and Lebanon to face the serious course which seeks to liquidate Arab and Palestinian rights.

Also in Damascus, official Syrian sources have expressed satisfaction with the Palestinian position vis-a-vis the Moscow talks. This is reported by our correspondent in Damascus 'Abdallah al-Dardari:

[Begin al-Dardari recording] Official Syrian sources have expressed satisfaction with the PLO's position vis-a-vis the multilateral talks. The sources told our radio station that the unanimity of the Palestinian factions of all shades, including the Islamic forces, to boycott the Moscow round of talks strengthens the position of Syria and Lebanon on the talks. With the Palestinian boycott, the position of the Arab parties directly concerned with the conflict with Israel has become unified and enjoys the support of influential regional powers such as Iran.

It is worth noting here the call made today by Damascus radio to all nationalistic movements and forces in the Arab world to support the Syrian position.

Sources close to the PLO have asserted that the decision to boycott the talks was made in advance. The sources say the PLO was certain that Israel and the United States would reject the composition of the delegation that left for Moscow.

Khalid al-Fahum, head of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, said that the PLO's decision is a positive and correct step. He told our radio station that this step will help strengthen comprehensive national unity. [end recording]

Papers Criticize Moscow Talks, Israeli Position

JN2801110692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial today AL-BA'TH writes about the multilateral talks due to begin today in Moscow. AL-BA'TH says that there are no foundations for this stage of the negotiations. Under the headline "The United Position Will Upset All Calculations," AL- BA'TH says: The multilateral talks—termed the third stage of the Middle East peace talks—are expected to begin in Moscow today. By using logic and sequential analysis in examining any event leads us to the natural conclusion that reaching the third stage means that the first and second stages of these talks have been accomplished. It also means that these two stages achieved the objectives on their agenda. But, as nothing of the sort has happened and as Israel did not make even one move toward peace, the third stage is baseless; it merely respresents a danger to all Arabs in terms of their territories and rights.

AL-BA'TH adds: Since its feigned acceptance of the peace talks, Israel has been looking forward to the third stage, which will be held today amid cheers from Shamir and other heavyweights of the Zionist military establishment. The mere convening of the so-called third stage of the peace talks gives occupation a legitimacy which, to say the least, poses grave threats to supreme Arab interests. The specter of Zionist expansion poses a threat to all Arabs without exception, and it be curbed and confronted with a unified position that would overturn all calculations and force Israel to submit to international legitimacy and uphold a fair and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH addresses the same theme, refuting Israel's lopsided logic and its policies of avoiding the requirements of peace.

Under the headline "The Lopsided Logic," AL-THAWRAH writes: Throughout the Arab-Israeli conflict, Israel has approached the issue of peace and every pertinent international effort with a twisted and lopsided logic based on bypassing the causes of the conflict and those responsible for the absence of peace and stability in the Middle East and moving to the post-peace stage.

Without a doubt, Israel's position can be explained by a determination on its part to avoid the requirements for peace, which would entail the return of rights and lands to their owners.

The paper addes: At the Madrid and Washington talks, Israel was expected to show a sincere will to make peace based on complying with international legitimacy by setting a date for complete withdrawal and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people. Instead, Israel showed itself to be stubborn, disrespectful of international legitimacy and its resolutions that form the bases of peace.

The paper says: Today Israel goes to the multilateral talks in Moscow, not to discuss the basics of the conflict but to demonstrate anew that the lopsided logic with which it has approached the conflict and the issue of peace remains the same logic that has throughout characterized Israel's positions and aberrant behavior. The only thing in the peace process that concerns Israel is to emerge with political and physical gains without being bound by any regional or international obligations.

Cuban Official Hold Talks With Vice President

JN2801191792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Today at 1000 Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president, received Mr. Jose Ramon Fernandez, Cuban vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and his delegation. The Cuban ambassador in Damascus also attended the meeting.

They discussed the Middle East, bilateral ties, and other matters of common interest.

Information Minister Discusses Role of Media

NC2801113692 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 22 Jan 92 p 11

[Report on interview with Information Minister Muhammad Salman in Cairo by 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Dib; date not given]

[Text] Talking to Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman is always interesting. He has plenty of information and firm views. He greets you with a smile, especially when he is in his home away from home—Egypt.

We held this interview with him in Cairo at the conclusion of the Second Islamic Conference of Information Ministers. It was a comprehensive and candid interview dealing with current Arab issues.

He spoke favorably of the Second Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, which he attended as head of the Syrian delegation. Syria offered to host the Third Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, which the conference participants approved unanimously.

The information minister spoke about the main interests of Syria's media at this critical stage. He emphasized that its primary focus is the fundamental conflict between Arabs and Israel and Israel's current attempts to destroy peace efforts and to make the peace conference fail. He said that the world senses that the U.S. Administration and the European Community are seriously seeking to achieve peace, but the absence of any positive Israeli stand does not give cause for optimism. He called on the international community to protect the sanctity of the United Nations and Security Council resolutions and to follow up their implementation, or the situation will get worse.

As for events in Algeria, the Syrian information minister said: As Arabs, we all have to help Algeria overcome this crisis, and we call on the Algerian people to protect their national unity.

On relations between Egypt and Syria, he said that Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad have issued instructions to develop bilateral relations, increase cooperation, and strengthen ties. He emphasized that the two presidents hold constant meetings and that every meeting enhances either bilateral or Arab relations.

Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman began the comprehensive interview by commenting on the outcome of the Second Islamic Conference of Information Ministers.

Speaking in the Cairo hotel where he was staying, he said: "This conference was timely because it came in the wake of the Islamic summit in Dakar. We consider the Islamic summit resolutions to be a guide for action for the Islamic media, particularly for the Arab nation in its conflict with Israel.

"The Second Islamic Conference of Information Ministers used the Dakar summit resolutions as the basis for discussion. The conference underlined the commitment to Arab rights to liberate their territory from the Israeli occupation and to support the Palestinian people's struggle to retrieve their political and national rights on their territory."

The Second Islamic Conference of Information Ministers issued a number of resolutions emphasizing the need to develop information ministers' methods of action, especially Islamic media establishments, to keep up with current changes. They also emphasized the need to have a basic role for Muslims in setting up the new world order to help achieve justice, freedom, sovereignty, and peace.

Muhammad Salman pointed out enthusiastically that the Cairo conference was unique in that all its resolutions were passed unanimously. He emphasized that President Husni Mubarak's instructions to the ministers when he met them before the conference helped clarify the course of the conference from the start, when all the conferees shouldered their responsibilities and discussed and approved the resolutions. He said confidently: "The Cairo declaration will be an action program for all of us."

On Syrian media's interests in this important stage in the history of the Arabic and Islamic nation, Muhammad Salman said: "Our primary interest is the fundamental conflict between Arabs and Israel. Israel does not want peace. What it said at the Madrid conference—its rejection of all positive initiatives and its refusal to admit that it is occupying Arab territories—means that it is looking ahead to future aggression."

The Syrian information minister added: "The current Israeli rulers would not have become rulers if they had not oppressed and displaced the Arabs. They have a psychological condition which suggests to them that peace is contrary to their wishes and existence. This is why Israel refuses to state where its borders lie. We have observed no positive Israeli response in theory or in fact. This does not encourage optimism."

[al-Dib] Can the Zionist lobby in the United States exert pressure on U.S. decisionmakers?

The Syrian foreign minister replied: "We believe that the U.S. Administration seriously wishes to attain peace, as do the Europeans. This was shown by the recent unanimous adoption of a UN Security Council resolution condemning Israeli practices. It reveals a new outlook on the Arab-Israeli struggle.

"We are urging the world community to preserve the sanctity of international organizations' resolutions and to follow their implementation. Otherwise, there will be no new international order and the situation will worsen. "We hope that the Security Council will help put pressure on Israel and help the United States to achieve a just and comprehensive peace."

[al-Dib] What do you think about events in Algeria?

Muhammad Salman said: "The Algerian people have a glorious history. When the nation united to liberate the country, they succeeded. This is why the Arabs unanimously agreed that the Algerian Arab people achieved something new."

"We urge the Algerian people to safeguard their national unity and not give any opportunity to those who want to undermine it.

"The Algerian people's leadership has shown its understanding. This fulfills our hope that this noble nation's purity will be preserved."

The minister added:

"We must all help Algeria out of this crisis. We hope that when the third Islamic information ministers conference is held in Syria, the Islamic nation will be enjoying peace, stability, development, and prosperity."

As for Egyptian-Syrian relations, Salman said:

"The Egyptian-Syrian Higher Joint Committee will hold its next session in Cairo on 7 February and will be chaired by the two countries' prime ministers. The session will discuss every issue of interest to the two countries and the Arab peoples."

He added:

"Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad have given instructions to develop the relationship between Egypt and Syria. The presidents are continuing their contacts. Every meeting serves the interests of bilateral and inter-Arab ties."

It was nearly time for Salman's flight to Damascus, so the comprehensive interview came to an end. As usual, he spoke from his heart, openly, and with a smile, profoundly, and with love.

Afghanistan

Army Officers Reportedly Not Obeying Najibollah

BK2901102692 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 28 Jan 92 pp 1, 5

[By Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text] Peshawar—Sketchy and confusing reports are emanating from northern Afghanistan where some pro-Kabul militia commanders as well as army officers have refused to obey orders from Dr Najibollah's government.

Informed sources said the dispute erupted when Kabul ordered the transfer of Gen Momin, commander of the 70th brigade in the border port town of Hayratan in Balkh province, and his replacement by another army officer from Qandahar. Gen Momin refused to comply with the orders once he was backed by militia Generals Rashid Dostom and Syed Mansoor Nadri.

It was learned that Minister of National Security and KHAD [Secret Police] chief Gen Farooq Ya'qubi sent along with Gen Jama Asak, commander of the Afghan Army's Northern Zone, to enforce the orders had to return empty-handed. [sentence as published]

Some reports even said that the two were fired at when they tried to proceed to Hayratan via the Salang highway and had to return to Mazar-i-Sharif post haste.

Gen Momin reportedly belonged to Andarab in Baghlan province. He was said to be close to Gen Syed Mansoor Nadri, an Ismaili from Kaihan area of Baghlan province and commander of a pro-Kabul militia. Mansoor's son Syed Jafar is the Governor of Baghlan.

Honorary Gen Rashid Dostom, who hails from Jowzjan province and heads the Geelum Jam militia, also extended support to Momin and Syed Mansoor in rejecting the transfer orders

This was a severe blow to the Kabul government as these three have provided crucial support to Dr Najib in defending several cities and keeping the highways like Salang open.

It was reported that Gen Juma Asaq, an Achakzai Pashtoon from Qandahar province, had been instrumental in ordering Gen Momin's transfer and replacing him with his nominee from Qandahar. His move was not liked by the militia generals Syed Mansoor and Rashid Dostom who are non-Pashtoon.

Some observers in Peshawar saw it as another evidence of the growing ethnic polarisation in Afghanistan, both in the ranks of pro-Kabul elements and among Afghan Mojahedin.

It was pointed out that Gen Momin as well as Syed Mansoor and Rashid Dostom had on their own started developing ties with neighboring Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenia primarily on the basis of ethnicity.

Their two common goals were stated to be to keep Islamic fundamentalists out and to oppose Pashtoon dominance in northern Afghanistan.

President Suggests Talks With Pakistan, Iran

BK2901101092 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 28 Jan 92 p 1

[By Shamim Shahid]

[Text] Peshawar—To step up efforts aimed at early settlement of the long-awaiting Afghan conflict through peaceful and political means Dr Najibollah for the first time since 1979 has addressed letters to Pakistan and Iranian officials for making direct negotiations on the subject.

Confidential sources told THE NATION, that Dr Najibollah has addressed letters to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in which the former had appreciated realistic approach of Iran towards the Afghan problem. The letter had been sent to Iranian President through Iran's Charge'd Affaires in Kabul, the source added. The letter stressed the need for direct negotiations between the two countries for playing a due role in early settlement of the Afghan conflict.

Afghan President Dr Najibollah Khan [name as published] has also addressed a similar letter to Pakistani authorities suggesting direct talks between the two countries. According to the source Dr Najibollah in the letter has urged Pakistan that he wants to discuss the issue with Pakistan as she was a party to it. He suggested the Pakistani officials to select a venue for direct meeting in Pakistan. Afghanistan or in a third country the sources added. The Afghan government was confident that both the countries could easily develop a consensus for resolving the Afghan conflict through direct negotiations instead of indirect contacts the source observed.

However, the source was unable to point out Pakistan's reaction to the letters of Dr Najibollah but said that it was being considered at high level. The source further said that Pakistan appeared to be in hurry for resolving the Afghan conflict due to changes taking place at international level.

Mr 'Abdol Qayum, the Pesahwar based Afghan consul when contacted confirmed sending of a letter by Afghan President Dr Najibollah to his counterpart from Islamic Republics of Iran but he was reluctant to comment with regard to Pakistan. He, however, reaffirmed his country's stance that they considered Pakistan a party to the conflict and were ready to hold direct negotiations with its authorities any where in the world. He was of the view that situation in Afghanistan was changing day by day and it was a time for Pakistan to resolve the issue through political ways instead of peace proposals of United Nations, Afghan President Dr Najibolah and other quarters.

Meanwhile, the Peshawar based MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] officials news agency of the interim government led by Prof. Mojaddedi in its reports on Monday, said that three

generals Mommen Andrabi, Gen. Rashid Dostum and Gen. Syed Mansoor Nadri turned against Najibollah government in Mazar-e-Sharif and then had blocked all kinds of traffic to Kabul except foodstuff and fuel.

The agency further said that Najibollah government had sent a delegation including Gen. Faruq and Security Minister Gen. Jamma Asaq to Mazar-e-Sharif for resolving differences with three generals but they returned disheartened to Kabul when the rebels did not allow their plane to land in that city. However, the Peshawar based Afghan consul contradicted such reports and termed it malicious and baseless reports being mischievously spread by resistance leaders.

Bangladesh

Spokesman Pleased With Burmese Talks on Refugees

BK2901163292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today Bangladesh is pleased with the results of the third flag meeting with Myanmar [Burma] held at Maungdaw yesterday. Briefing newsmen in Dhaka this afternoon, he said the tension has subsided along the Bangladesh-Burma border and there is no more any uncertainty of our people in the areas [sentence as heard]. Bangladesh would soon give to the government in Rangoon a partial list of about 3,000 refugees. The government is working to ascertain the exact number of refugees. The spokesman said the talks were held in a friendly atmosphere and the Mynamar side has emphasized that all major issues might be discussed between the foreign ministers of the two countries when they meet next.

India

Government To Establish Full Ties With Israel

BK2901154492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] India has decided to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel. This was announced by the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, at a press conference in New Delhi today. He said modalities are being worked out through diplomatic channels for opening embassies in New Delhi and Tel Aviv. Mr. Dixit said that India had already established Subscribers Trunk Dialing facilities with Tel Aviv a week ago. He said that the Israeli mission in Bombay has also been informed about the decision.

Replying to a question, Mr. Dixit said that the decision of establishing full diplomatic relations with Israel has been taken after due consideration. Referring to the West Asia peace talks being held in Moscow, the foreign secretary said that India wants to encourage the peace process in West Asia. On India's participation in the talks, Mr. Dixit said that New Delhi will consider it if invited.

'Mixed' Reaction to Decision

BK3001033592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] Establishment of full diplomatic relations between India and Israel has evoked mixed reaction from various political parties. The Bharatiya Janata Party has welcomed the decision. Party leader and the former minister for external affairs, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has said that the decision will help India play a more meaningful role in solving the West Asia crisis.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] National Council secretary, Mr. Chaturanand Mishra, has described the decision as a step in haste.

Janata Dal Leader Syed Shahabuddin, MP, has said the decision at this juncture was neither morally nor politically defensible.

Government To Introduce More Economic Reforms

BK2901103092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] The government is planning to introduce more economic reforms to revamp the country's economy. The measures under consideration include one direct taxes code and changes in the Companies Act. Disclosing this in New Delhi today, the minister of state for finance, Mr. Rameshwar Thakur, said that some of the measures may be announced during the budget session. Mr. Thakur was inaugurating the 23d meeting of the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee. He said the whole world is engaged in a new economic scenario and therefore there is no question of reversing the liberalized economic policy announced by the government. The thrust areas will continue to be development of high-tech field to make Indian products more competitive in the world. Mr. Thakur urged the Japanese businessmen to invest in India as it has rich mineral resources and a large internal market.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. S.R. Bommai, has called for a national consensus on the economic policies of the country. Addressing a news conference in Bangalore today, Mr. Bommai said that giving incentives to multinational companies at par with Indian companies amounts to surrender of our economic sovereignty. He however welcomed the delicensing and tax rationalization measures initiated by the center.

Prime Minister Seeking Investment From Japan

OW3001020992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0121 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 29 KYODO—India looks for more investment, transfer of technology, and business cooperation from the Japanese private sector. Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao told a Japanese economic mission visiting here Wednesday.

India's current economic liberalization policy is now on the right track, Rao told Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who is leading the economic mission sponsored by the Japanese Government.

Ishikawa handed Rao a letter from Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa praising India's economic policy, according to a source accompanying Ishikawa in the meeting with Rao.

Rao particularly stressed a need for immediate resumption of Japanese cooperation in the controversial development project on the Narmada River, central India.

The Indian Government will take adequate measures for people who will be forced to move out the area to make way for the planned construction of the large-scale dam as well as dealing with environmental problems, the Indian prime minister was quoted as saying.

The Japanese Government suspended its loan program for projects related to the dam in 1990 following protests from environmental groups.

Iran

German Justice Minister Holds Talks on Hostages

Delivers Message to Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2901145392 Tehran IRNA in English 1306 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received a verbal message from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, through visiting Minister of Justice Klaus Kinkel, calling for expansion of ties between the two countries. Kinkel noting the "excellent ties" between Iran and Germany in the economic, political and cultural fields, expressed hope that his trip would would further improve bilateral cooperation especially in the judicial sphere. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that among European states, Iran has greater cooperation with Germany, and intends to develop it further. He said, good faith and mutual trust being a principal factor in Tehran-Bonn ties, the two countries could cement their relations by implementing trade and economic agreements.

Meets With Judicial Officials

LD2901172592 Hamburg DPA in German 1449 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran (DPA) [dateline as received]—Iran will continue to strongly support international efforts to attain the release of the German hostages held in the Lebanon. This assurance was given by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to German Justice Minister Klaus Kinkel during a meeting in Tehran on Wednesday. Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave a positive reception to a message from Chancellor Helmut Kohl on the hostage issue, Kinkel told the press afterwards. It was a "very friendly and helpful talk."

The minister did not comment, however, on the question of whether prospects for an early release of the Germans Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig, who are held by Shiites, have now improved. Iran is thought to have the best chance to influence the hostage-takers, who are members of the clan of the Hamadi brothers, who are imprisoned in Germany on terrorist charges.

Following his discussions with the Iranian leadership, the justice minister, and other representatives of the legal system, Kinkel said he favors developing German-Iranian relations in this sphere as well. This could go as far as the exchange of experts and judges, Kinkel said. Another field of cooperation could be the fight against the drug trade. Iran is one of the main transit countries for drugs reaching West Europe. There were ideas about an exchange of experts and information on this topic, too.

In his talks, Kinkel was very pressing in his insistence on the observation of human rights, and he criticized the death penalty, which is still frequently applied in Iran, as no longer in keeping with the times. However, these problems can only be resolved through mutual dialogue and not by constantly pillorying Iran as "a country extremely hostile to human rights."

Kinkel emphasized the mutual interest of Iran and Germany in developing relations with regard to their growing significance in their own regions. Iran heavily relies on Germany in opening up to the West, said Kinkel, who also met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Wednesday. One cannot fail to recognize that Islam is gaining influence worldwide; hence it is high time that the West should get to know more about this religion and the political and legal positions arising from it.

Kinkel will conclude his visit to Tehran on Thursday with a further meeting with his counterpart, the Iranian justice minister.

Holds Talks With Interior Minister

LD2901194992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] The German justice minister and his accompanying delegation met and conferred with Minister of Interior Mr. Nuri in Tehran this afternoon.

During the meeting the interior minister, in expressing his readiness for expanded relations between the two countries, remarked on German assistance to Iran concerning unforeseen events and said: We thank Germany for sending aid in this regard, as well as for the assistance given to Iraqi refugees who have sought asylum in Iran.

The interior minister added: We can help both countries through cooperation and holding identical views on

various issues, including issues relating to the Interior Ministry, the campaign against narcotics, and the law-enforcement forces.

The German justice minister said: The judicial establishment in Germany is very complex, and crime, especially narcotics and car thefts, are very high in Germany, although we have a high record of theft recoveries.

Notes 'Millimeters' of Progress on Hostages

LD3001111192 Berlin ADN in German 0827 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] Cologne (ADN) [dateline as received]—The Federal Government is still not prepared to make concessions to achieve the release of the two German hostages in Lebanon. "We cannot and must not allow ourselves to be blackmailed," said FRG Justice Minister Klaus Kinkel in an interview on Deutschlandfunk (radio) on Thursday morning. Kinkel has been in Tehran since Tuesday for talks with the Iranian Government on the hostage issue. The minister will end his visit today (Thursday) and return to Germany.

In the view of the FDP [Free Democratic Party] politician, Iran understands Germany's position. Among other things, he has passed on a message from Chancellor Kohl in which the view of the Federal Government was again set out. Kinkel said that there been an advance of "a few millimeters" in negotiations. Just on Wednesday Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that his country wants to continue to "strongly" support German efforts to gain the release of the hostages in Lebanon.

Opposition Says State Sending Out Hit Teams

JN2901163192 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Paris, Jan 29, INA—The Iranian opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq disclosed that the Iranian regime had dispatched new assassination teams to Turkey and Europe to liquidate the Iranian opposition elements abroad.

A statement issued by the organization here said that 13 terrorists had arrived in Ankara in two groups for the implementation of terrorist operations against Iranian opposition in Turkey.

The statement said the Iranian regime had sent similar terrorism squads to several European and Middle East countries to perform various terroristic acts under the direct command of a senior aide to Mohsen Reza'i, commander-in-chief of the Iranian Guards Corps.

The statement urged the Turkish and European authorities to close down all Iranian embassies because they represent centers for terrorism and espionage.

In another statement, the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization rejected the appointment of an Iranian as deputy-head of the United Nations Human Rights Commission as shameful.

The Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq opposition organization demanded the international community and all those concerned with human rights to resist this move.

Mojahedin-e Khalq said the Iranian regime has been condemned over the past ten years [words indistinct] for human rights abuse and terrorism.

Karrubi Criticizes Turkey Over Anti-Islamic Movie

LD2901122992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Excerpts] At today's Majles open session the deputies approved a proposal on Note 40 to the State Budget Bill about the issuing of temporary military service exemption cards for conscripts living abroad, in return for the payment of $5,000. Our correspondent reports on today's Majles open session:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] [Passage omitted] At today's session Majles Speaker Karrubi described the extensive cultural conspiracy by the enemies of Islam, particularly world arrogance and America, as a sign of their anxiety about the Islamic revolution of Iran. He added: The enemies of Islam should know that this roaring, ever-rising tide found throughout the world of Islam will not be halted by such plots and will undoubtedly continue its searching and dynamic course.

Addressing the Turkish authorities in reference to the broadcast of a film against the Islamic revolution and Islamic clerics which was shown on Turkish television, the Majles speaker said: This action is contrary to neighborly relations and the interests of the two countries. We know that America is the main culprit behind this crime. He warned the Turkish authorities to watch their actions and beware of the wrath of Muslims, even inside Turkey.

The Majles will continue its debate on the budget bill for next year in this afternoon's open session. [end recording]

Borujerdi Receives Afghan Leaders, Backs UN Plan

LD3001094992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] The head of the Representative Council and the spokesman of the Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami], together with the heads of the Afghan party and representation offices, met with Mr. Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asian and oceanic affairs, on Wednesday afternoon. Views were exchanged on the latest developments concerning the Afghanistan problem.

According to the report of the central news unit, the head of the Islamic Unity Party's Representative Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its valuable assistance to the people of Afghanistan and said: We are not opposed to a political solution if that solution guides the main goal of the Muslim people of Afghanistan on the right track toward an independent Islamic government.

The representative of Afghanistan's National Salvation Front [Jebhe-ye Nejat-e Melli-ye Afghanistan] also referred to the UN secretary general's initiative and said: That plan can provide a window of opportunity for solving the Afghan problem.

The representative of Afghanistan's Islamic Society [Jam'iyat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan] also emphasized: Any solution that does not consider problems of Afghanistan's Muslim mojahedin is impossible and impractical.

On the basis of the same report, during that meeting Mr. Borujerdi praised the valuable resistance of the brave people of Afghanistan and said: Following their epic feats on the battlefield, the mojahedin should also participate, with dedication and perseverance, in the political struggle, which is a necessity at the current juncture in the struggle of the Afghan people.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the political struggle of the Muslim people of Afghanistan as it did with their jihad, and it hopes that the mojahedin will also be able to achieve great victories in that field of the struggle.

As for the United Nations becoming active once again [concerning the issue of Afghanistan], our country's deputy foreign minister for Asian and oceanic affairs said: To promote the solution of the Afghan problem, we support the new secretary general's initiative to solve the problem of Afghanistan.

Pakistan

Government Encourages Afghans To Work With UN

BK2901160092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Benon Sevan, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, now in Islamabad, is starting consultations with various Afghan representatives, their groups and parties to convene an assembly of Afghan leaders as soon as possible to carry forward the process of political settlement of the Afghan problem. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that Pakistan will put more emphasis on persuading the Afghan parties and groups to attend the UN-sponsored Afghan assembly. He, however, clarified that the decision to attend the assembly will be made by the Afghan groups themselves. The spokesman expressed the hope that all representative parties and groups will take part in the assembly. He reiterated that Pakistan will support the convening of the Afghan assembly and respect its outcome.

President Affirms Afghan Policy

BK3001093392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Excerpt] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said Pakistan's support to the UN secretary general's five-point formula for an Afghan settlement is a reaffirmation of our policy decision taken months before. He was talking to newsmen in Islamabad today after laying the foundation stone of the Federal Shariat Court Building.

He said there is no shift of Pakistan's policy toward a political solution of the Afghan problem. Since the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, it has been Pakistan's endeavor to arrive at a political settlement of the Afghan problem. During the last two and half years, he said, we have done our best in this regard and also persuaded the Afghan mojahedin to agree to it. They also wanted a political settlement. [passage omitted]

Asif Nawaz Reportedly Invited to Afghanistan

BK2901085592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 28 Jan 92 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—Afghan President Dr Najibollah has reportedly extended an invitation to Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff [COAS] Gen Asif Nawaz Janjua to either visit Kabul or meet him in Pakistan or any third country to find out an amicable solution to the Afghan dispute.

According to reliable sources, the personal message of Dr Najibollah was conveyed to Gen Asif Nawaz by Major (Retd) Nayyar Zaman in writing as well as through mutual friends. The response of the COAS could not be ascertained.

Zaman, a leader of Pakhtoonkhwa Qaumi Party [PQP], recently visited Kabul and met Dr Najib. He is now awaiting a reply from Gen Asif Nawaz.

Dr Najib in his message has reportedly asked the Pakistani COAS to meet him to resolve the Afghan dispute since his government was a party to the Afghan conflict. Appreciating Gen Asif Nawaz's meetings with Russian Vice-President Rutskoy and Gen Sardar Wali, son-in-law of former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah, in Rome, Dr Najib thought it was high time the two met to help resolve the 12-year-old Afghan dispute.

When contacted, Nayyar Zalnan neither confirmed nor denied the news. He however pointed out that the PQP had been striving to bring the warring factions of the Afghan conflict to a negotiating table in a bid to find a peaceful and political solution to the problems. He felt it was the need of the hour that parties to the Afghan conflict sit together and start direct talks to peacefully resolve the issue. His party, he informed, was also

making efforts to open the trade and transit routes between Pakistan and Afghanistan and facilitate the return of over three million Afghan refugees to their homeland with honour and dignity.

Spokesman on French Nuclear Pact; India, Japan

BK2901154792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan and France have agreed in principle to sign the agreement for cooperation in the field of nuclear technology and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The agreement was reached during the prime minister's recent visit to France. The spokesman, however, added that details in this regard are yet to be finalized.

When asked to comment on efforts by India and Japan to become permanent members of the UN Security Council, the spokesman said Pakistan feels that the Security Council is working effectively after the end of the Cold War and the easing of international tension. There is no justification for an expansion in the permanent membership of the UNSC at this juncture, because such an expansion may prove counterproductive.

Libya's Jallud Dismisses Terrorism Accusations

LD2401155792 Rabat MAP in English 1334 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 22 (MAP)—Libyan second in command Commander 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud ruled out the accusations of Libyan involvement in terrorism portraying them as 'unfair' at a meeting Thursday with former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Jallud expounded the Libyan stand in the Lockerbie affair saying his country is unjustly accused.

Mrs. Bhutto hope for a 'political and honorable solution to the crisis' after the endorsement of the UN Security Council resolution last Tuesday calling on Libya for immediate cooperation in an enquiry on the affair.

Sri Lanka

Troops Overrun LTTE Den in Amparai District

BK2801112292 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] The security forces in operations against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the eastern districts of Amparai and Batticaloa have killed three terrorists and also captured a large haul of arms and ammunition. These operations were conducted yesterday, according to a Joint Operations Command communique issued to LANKAPUVATH. In these operations, the Special Task Force has been able to overrun a terrorist hideout at (Pallikadu) in the Amparai District after intense fighting. Three terrorists were killed while many others abandoned the hideout when they feared confrontation. Meanwhile, at Vellaveli in the Batticaloa District, security forces conducting a cordon and search operation seized a large quantity of weapons and other ammunition.